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JAMES ARNOLD TAYLOR, AND ALEC GUINNESS!

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EDITOR'S WELCOME

"Obi-Wan is here. The Force is with him!"

—Darth Vader, *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*

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Wise yet deceptive; powerful but strangely manipulative; laid back, but with the weight of the galaxy resting on his shoulders, Obi-Wan Kenobi is a mass of contradictions. He's also the linchpin of the entire *Star Wars* saga.

Lots of folk will tell you that *Star Wars* is about the fall of Anakin Skywalker as he is consumed by the dark side and his eventual redemption. Others insist that the story is all about the twins, Luke and Leia, as they are reunited to overcome the evils of the galaxy and claim back the soul of the fallen Jedi who just happens to be their father.

But the true star of the saga must be Obi-Wan Kenobi, a complicated, flawed man unable to overcome the dark forces that claimed his friend and pupil, but who is at least able to inspire a young boy to become a Jedi and challenge the darkness that has taken hold of the universe.

He's cool—far cooler than Han Solo. I'd certainly be glad of his company on a night out at my local bar, especially if there was any trouble! He's dedicated to the Jedi Order and is even known to use Jedi mind tricks as a kind of instant 12-step recovery program (just ask notorious death stick peddler Elan Sleazebaggano!).

Obi-Wan Kenobi wouldn't be the popular character he is today were it not for the

stunning performance of Alec Guinness in the first *Star Wars* movie.

Watch the scene in which he tells Luke of the Clone Wars and describes the fate of Luke's father. It's one of the most gripping moments of the entire saga, inspiring millions to speculate about the back-story of the mysterious Clone Wars,



TAYLOR MADE!

Jump to hyperspace and head for page 22 as we meet the man who voices Obi-Wan Kenobi in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*!



what Luke's father was like and what "damn-fool idealistic crusades" he and Obi-Wan went on.

Have you ever noticed the heavy pause before he tells his sad tale? That faltering pause could mean anything. Maybe his hesitation is that typical of an old soldier who is uneasy about recalling those terrible times that robbed him of so many comrades, or maybe it's the fact that he knows he must lie to Luke in order to save not only the Jedi way, but to secure the fate of the galaxy itself.

The chance to see his adventures with Anakin in the prequel trilogy and *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* is every bit as thrilling as that brief, but vital monologue all those years ago.

May the Force be with you all,

Jonathan Wilkins

Jonathan Wilkins, Editor



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Test your *Star Wars* knowledge
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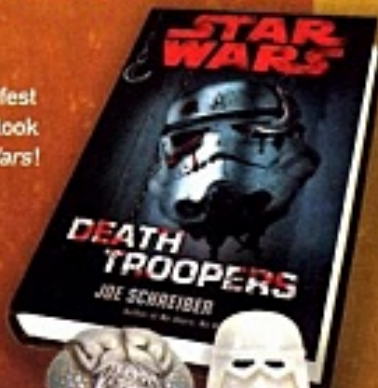
Meet the lucky fans who have met the stars!

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LAUNCH

ALL THE LATEST NEWS, FUN, GAMES AND GOSSIP FROM THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE

THE BAND PLAYS ON!

THE MUSIC OF *STAR WARS* HITS THE ROAD THIS FALL!

Star Wars: In Concert, a unique multi-media event featuring music from all six of John Williams' epic *Star Wars* scores, begins its worldwide arena tour on October 1, 2009 at Honda Center in Anaheim, California.

Narrated live by Anthony Daniels (the actor who portrayed C-3PO in all six films), the production features a full symphony orchestra and choir, accompanied by specially edited footage from the films displayed on a three-story-tall, high-definition LED super-screen—one of the largest ever put on tour. The live music and film elements are synchronized in order to create a full multi-media, one-of-a-kind *Star Wars* experience.

"We've taken the key themes from the music and cut together all the images that fit with each theme, so you can really get a sense of how the music played into the images," says George Lucas, creator of the *Star Wars* saga. "The whole soundtrack is a testament to John Williams' creativity and his extraordinary ability to enhance the emotional aspects of the films."

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

"Creating the music for the *Star Wars* films has been an exciting and wonderful experience for me, and I therefore have derived particular pleasure in assembling a compendium of themes from all of the films to be presented in *Star Wars: In*

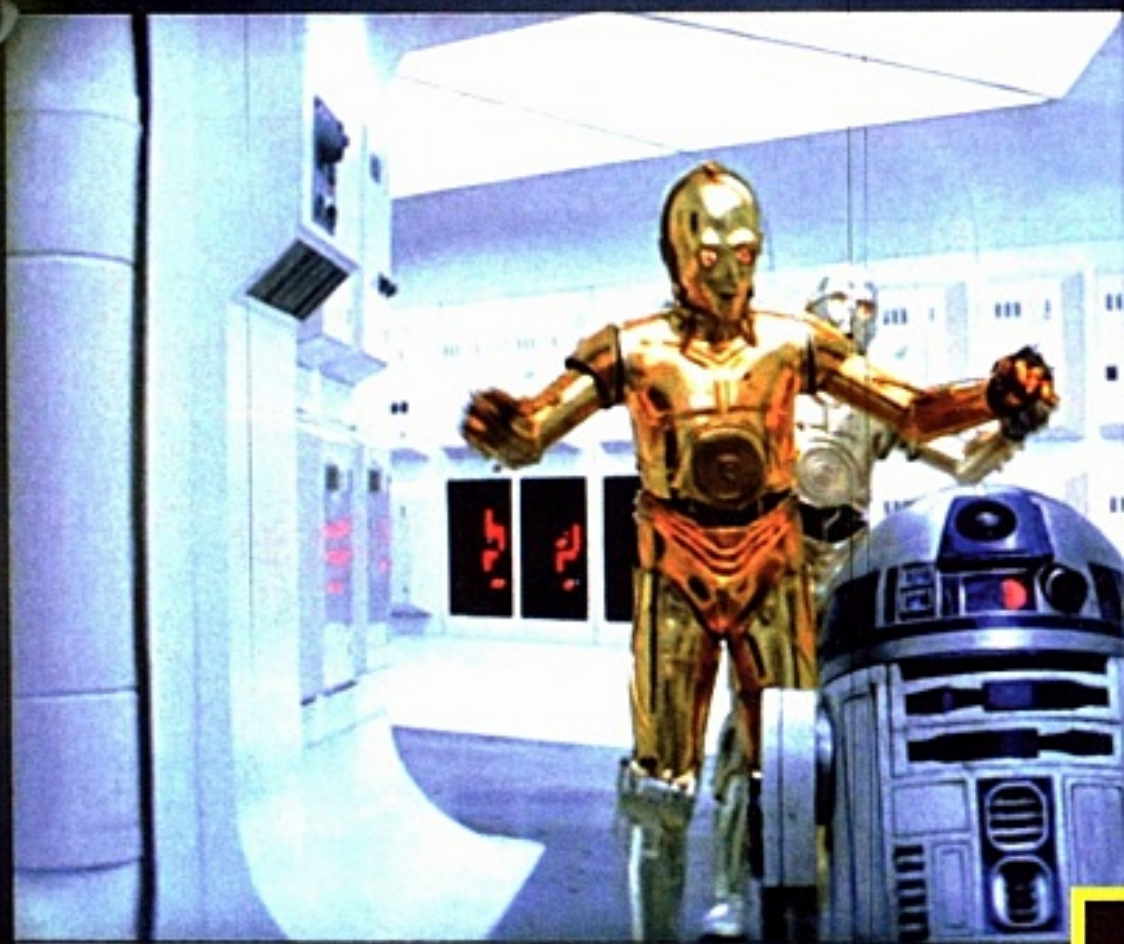
Concert," says John Williams. "The editors at Lucasfilm have created original film montages to accompany each of the musical selections, and in the process, I believe that a singular and unique *Star Wars* experience has been born."

MORE THAN MUSIC

Accompanying the concert is an exclusive exhibit of *Star Wars* costumes, props, artifacts, production artwork and specially created behind-the-scenes videos from the Lucasfilm Archives. Check out page 32 for more on this exciting display of treasures!

EXPANDED UNIVERSE

For ticket info, please visit www.starwarsinconcert.com.



PAD

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PAGE 12

Discover the life and times
of old Ben Kenobi as
we recount

**THE TALE OF
OBI-WAN**

PAGE 48

Check out your *Star
Wars* knowledge
with our

**STAR WARS
TRIVIA QUIZ**



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28. EWAN MCGREGOR // 30. ARCHIVE // 32. DAVID ISKRA
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SEV GOES BUST!



After Commander Bly in 2007 and the Galactic Marine in 2008, Forbidden Planet will launch its third Gentle Giant exclusive *Star Wars* bust, Republic Commando Sev. Over the years Gentle Giant has received many requests for the Delta Squad Clone Troopers from the LucasArts video game Republic Commando and is launching four great Commando busts. The Republic Commandos will be available at four locations across the globe.

Forbidden Planet will launch this exclusive figure later in 2009—along with very limited numbers of the other three in the series. ☺

EXPANDED UNIVERSE >>>

Full details will be announced shortly. To keep up to date on the launch of Republic Commando Sev see forbiddenplanet.com



VOTE FOR A VILLAIN!

Leading science fiction website, Totalscifionline.com has teamed up with *Star Wars Insider* to find out who is the best villain in the entire *Star Wars* saga. We want to know which diabolical mastermind sends a shiver down your spine and sets your heart pounding! For info on how to cast your vote, visit: www.totalscifionline.com/features/3699. Alternatively, just email your vote to: votestartwars@titanemail.com ☺





CLONE WARS IN A BOX!

The eagerly awaited *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* season one box set will be released on November 3 on DVD and Blu-ray.

The set contains all 22 episodes of the hit show, along with a host of extra features including seven director's cuts (*Rising Malevolence*, *Shadow of Malevolence*, *Lair of Grievous*, *Rookies*, *Storm Over Ryloth*, *Innocents of Ryloth* and *Liberty on Ryloth*) and—only on Blu-ray—a Jedi Temple Archives with character turn-arounds and test footage.

Uniquely packaged with an exclusive 64-page production journal, the sets also contains companion featurettes for each episode.

"I'm a longtime *Star Wars* fan, and the same's true for a lot of the guys working on the show," says supervising director Dave Filoni. "And as a fan, I know that Lucasfilm can be pretty secretive. They're famous for it. But we're all so proud of the work that's gone into *The Clone Wars*, and we wanted to share some of our production tricks, and open up the vault and reveal our efforts. You're going to get unprecedented access, to see the nuts and bolts of our series—from concept to finished animation."

"The live-action saga was just the beginning. The universe is vast, and there are so many more stories to explore beyond Anakin's fall and redemption," says creator George Lucas. "The scope of the war gives us the perfect vehicle for a weekly series, allowing us to look at how the conflict has affected the farthest reaches of the galaxy, including characters, creatures and species we only glimpsed in the feature films. Animation has allowed us to visualize the worlds and characters of *Star Wars* in all new ways."

FORCE IS UNLEASHED FURTHER!

The "Ultimate Sith Edition" of *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed* will also be released on November 3 and features the original hit game with three new levels set in iconic *Star Wars* locales as well as new costumes and character models. New levels include a visit the Jedi Temple on Coruscant and a trip to the planet Hoth to square up against Luke Skywalker. Luke defeated the Apprentice in our recent "versus" battle. Will he be so lucky this time?

The Ultimate Sith Edition also enables players to experience the game as Luke Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Count Dooku, Anakin Skywalker, Jango Fett, and C-3PO.

STAR WARS THE FORCE UNLEASHED ULTIMATE SITH EDITION

In addition to the Xbox360 and Playstation 3 versions, *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed* will make its debut on the Mac and PC this fall from Aspyr Media. Check out the next issue of *Star Wars Insider* for an exclusive feature on the new game!

STAR WARS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

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STAR WARS INSIDER INTERRUPTS THE CLONE WARS TO CHAT WITH THE VOICE OF GENERAL GRIEVOUS, MATTHEW WOOD! WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE



Below: Grievous answers questions on how to cook the perfect Jedi omelette! right: the many arms of Matthew Wood!

The primary talent for all four-armed *Star Wars* characters seems to lie in the kitchen. Look no further than diner owner Dexter Flettster and the *Holiday Special's* chef Gormaanda! So, what culinary delights would Grievous specialize in?

I am partial to the Wookiee cookies in the *Star Wars Cookbook*, but I use real Wookiees to make them extra Chewie!

Grievous had quite a collection of lightsabers. Other than gourmet kitchenware, what do you think he may have collected that he wasn't quite as eager to display?

Well, aside from the lightsabers and the Padawan braids, I'd say my collection of Jedi baby teething rings and pacifiers crosses the line into bad taste.

Dooku trained Grievous in the art of lightsaber combat. Beside how to look cool in a cloak, what other tricks do you think the Dark Lord taught him?

The Count has a wonderful bass voice. He tried to teach me harmonies, but I came off sounding like a poor man's Tom Waits!

If Grievous speed dated through the galaxy, who would he most likely be willing to turn off the hyperdrive for? Gargan, Jabba's six-breasted dancer? The Twi'lek twins? Or changeling Zam Wesell, who could alter the number of her limbs on a whim?

Although I exceed in the appendage department, I lack certain abilities in manifesting my desires physically. Home alone with Gor and A4-D is probably when I'm most happy. My Facebook status is "It's complicated."

What homeopathic remedies do you think Grievous tried in order to rid himself of that hacking cough? Eucalyptus rubs, humidifiers, switching to menthol cigarettes—all failed! But my personal doctor, A4-D, is covered by our insurance plan since my injury happened in combat.

If Grievous had risen to the rank of Sith Lord, what would his Darth moniker have been?

Darth Downer.

NAME: MATTHEW WOOD
ALIAS: GENERAL GRIEVOUS

FIRST APPEARANCE:
STAR WARS: REVENGE OF THE SITH

What was Grievous most adept at juggling besides lightsabers? Thermal detonators? Holograms? Baby Ewoks?

Well, making sure that A4-D is happy takes constant attention. Don't forget all the social engagements a droid general gets invited to, so juggling my calendar is my best talent.



If the current economic woes stretched to the *Star Wars* galaxy and the Separatist forces faced massive budget cuts, what other sources of employment do you think Grievous would be suited for? Palace Juggler? Waiter? Octuplet au pair? The "Who's on first?" routine with A4-D would be a hit in all the outer rim territories.

Grievous could turn his torso a full 360 degrees, for what tasks do you think this came in most handy? *Dancing With the Stars*, a high school teacher at the chalkboard, or *Breakdancing—Breakin' III*, Grievously.

When Grievous hung out with the other galaxy cyborgs, like Dengar and Lobot, what do you think they compared notes on?

It's hard to get a word in edgewise when Dengar is around. I think Lobot and I would claim that "something suddenly came up" and quickly get out of there.☺



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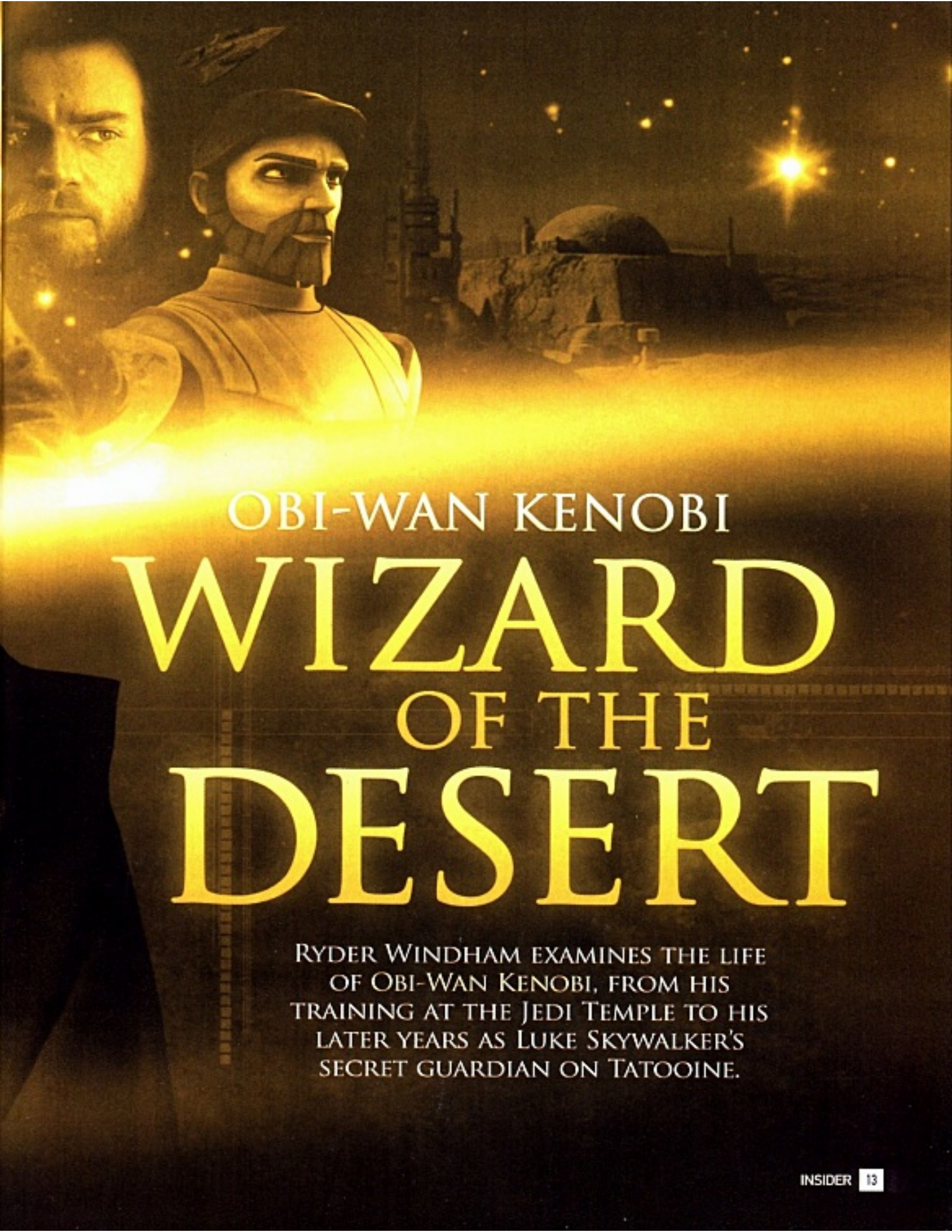
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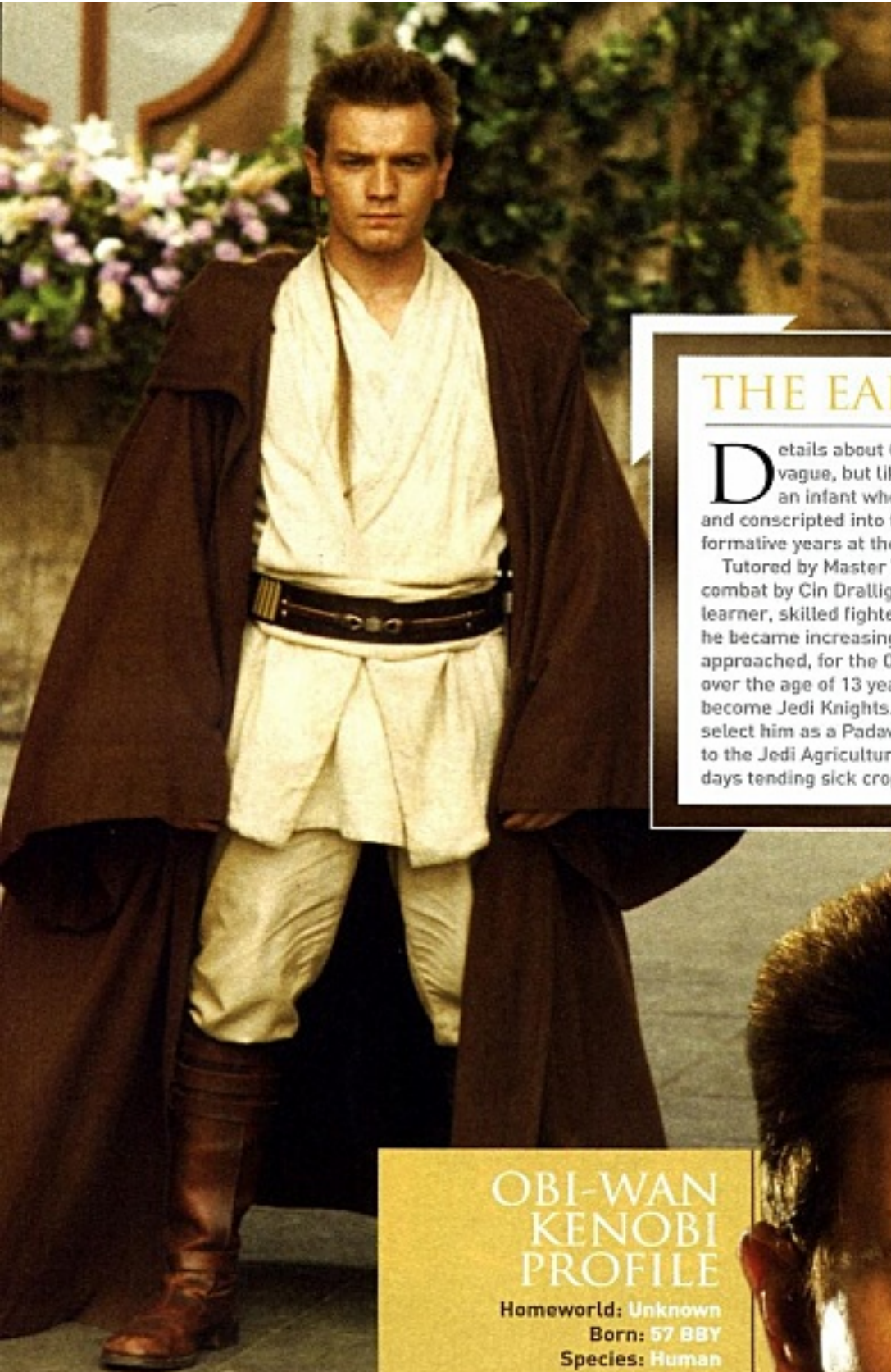
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A composite image featuring Obi-Wan Kenobi. On the left, a close-up of his face with a beard and a Jedi cap. In the center, a 3D digital model of him in his Jedi robes, looking off to the side. The background is a desert landscape at night, with a large domed structure and a bright star in the sky.

OBI-WAN KENOBI WIZARD OF THE DESERT

RYDER WINDHAM EXAMINES THE LIFE
OF OBI-WAN KENOBI, FROM HIS
TRAINING AT THE JEDI TEMPLE TO HIS
LATER YEARS AS LUKE SKYWALKER'S
SECRET GUARDIAN ON TATOOINE.



THE EARLY YEARS

Details about Obi-Wan Kenobi's origins remain vague, but like most Jedi of his time, he was an infant when he was taken from his family and conscripted into the Jedi Order, and spent his formative years at the Jedi Temple on Coruscant.

Tutored by Master Yoda and trained in lightsaber combat by Cin Drallig, Obi-Wan was considered a quick learner, skilled fighter, and dedicated pupil. However, he became increasingly anxious as his 13th birthday approached, for the Order maintained that younglings over the age of 13 years were too old to be trained to become Jedi Knights. He knew that if a Jedi did not select him as a Padawan learner, he would be assigned to the Jedi Agricultural Corps, and spend the rest of his days tending sick crops.

OBI-WAN KENOBI PROFILE

Homeworld: Unknown

Born: 57 BBY

Species: Human

Gender: Male

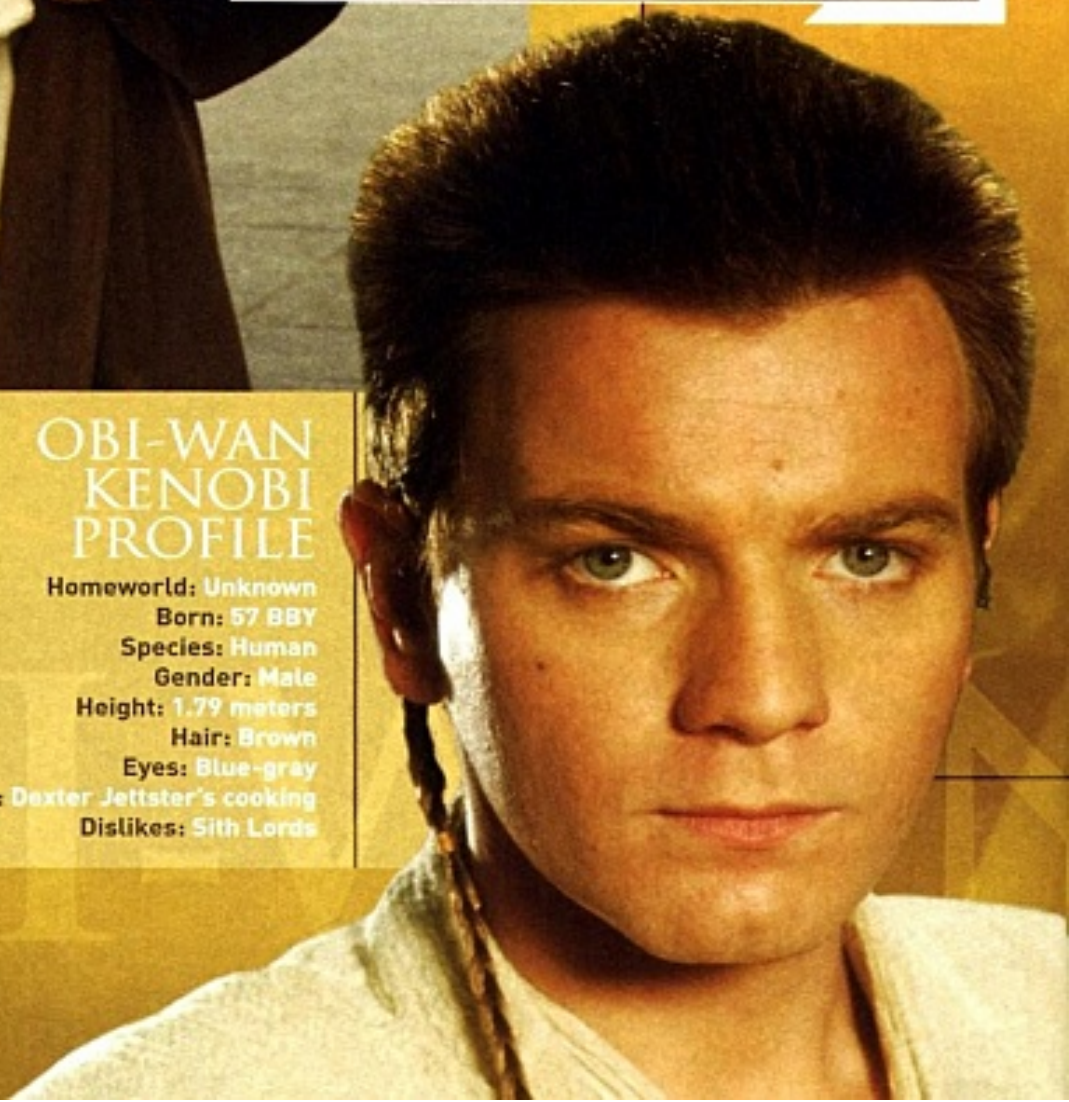
Height: 1.79 meters

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue-gray

Likes: Dexter Jettster's cooking

Dislikes: Sith Lords





Obi-Wan: "BUT MASTER YODA SAYS
I SHOULD BE MINDFUL OF THE FUTURE."
Qui-Gon Jinn: "BUT NOT AT THE
EXPENSE OF THE MOMENT."

EPISODE I - THE PHANTOM MENACE



APPRENTICE TO QUI-GON JINN

When Obi-Wan Kenobi learned that the Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn might take a new apprentice, he realized it was his last chance to become a Knight. However, Qui-Gon was doubtful of his own competence as a teacher because his previous apprentice, Xanatos, had failed to become a Jedi and turned to the dark side. Although Qui-Gon initially rejected Obi-Wan, the wise Master Yoda—who saw great potential in the pair—arranged for them to travel together on a mission to the planet Bandomeer in the Outer Rim. After unexpected developments led Obi-Wan to attempt to bring the renegade Xanatos to justice, Qui-Gon chose Obi-Wan as his Padawan.

Obi-Wan went with Qui-Gon to the crystal caves of Ilum, where he constructed his own lightsaber. On one of their early missions, they journeyed to the mining world Ord Sigatt, where they befriended Dexter Jettster, a shady Besalisk who possessed an incredible wealth of knowledge and a genuine talent for cooking.

Although Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan worked well together, there were occasional conflicts. Qui-Gon frequently wished his apprentice were more patient and mindful of the moment, and Obi-Wan was baffled by his Master's penchant for befriend[ing] pathetic life forms. ▶



"MASTER, WHY DOES IT FEEL THAT WE'VE PICKED
UP ANOTHER USELESS LIFEFORM?"

Obi-Wan to Qui-Gon: EPISODE I - THE PHANTOM MENACE



NEW FRIENDS, OLD FOES

Kenobi had served with Qui-Gon for over a decade when they met the resourceful astromech droid R2-D2 while protecting Queen Amidala of Naboo from the greedy Neimoidian Trade Federation's droid forces. They were escorting Amidala to Coruscant when an emergency detour to the desert planet Tatooine introduced them to Anakin Skywalker, a nine-year-old boy who was exceptionally powerful with the Force.

It was also on Tatooine that Obi-Wan witnessed Qui-Gon duel a dark warrior with a tattooed visage and a red lightsaber. Although the Jedi Order had not encountered their greatest enemy, the Sith, in a millennium, Qui-Gon correctly identified his attacker as a Sith Lord.

Pursuing the two Jedi when they returned to Naboo, the Sith Lord mortally wounded Qui-Gon but was slain by Kenobi. Because Qui-Gon believed Anakin Skywalker would fulfill an ancient Jedi prophecy to bring balance to the Force, his last request was for Kenobi to train Anakin to become a Jedi.

In that same year the Sith revealed they were far from extinct, an innocuous Senator named Palpatine was elected Supreme Chancellor of the Galactic Senate.

WEB OF INTRIGUE

Ten years after Palpatine became Supreme Chancellor, Obi-Wan Kenobi's investigation of an attempted assassination led him to Kamino, a water world that had been erased from all records in the Jedi Archives. He soon learned that Jedi Master Sifo-Dyas—who'd been killed almost a decade earlier—had commissioned the Kaminoans to create a massive army of clone soldiers for the Republic, and that the Kaminoans had used the bounty hunter Jango Fett as the clones' genetic template.

Kenobi questioned Fett, who maintained that he'd never heard of Sifo-Dyas, but claimed a man named Tyrannus had recruited him for the cloning operation. Later, on the planet Geonosis, Kenobi confronted Count Dooku, a former Jedi Master who had abandoned the Jedi Order ten years earlier and become the leader of the Separatist movement, a growing collective of worlds that threatened to secede from the Republic. Dooku professed that he'd left the Order because the Jedi Council ignored his report that a Sith Lord named Darth Sidious had betrayed the Trade Federation and now held hundreds of Republic Senators under his influence.

Kenobi was certain the various ten-year-old events were somehow connected, but still didn't understand that all were part of a Sith scheme to conquer the galaxy.

"YOU HAVE MADE A
COMMITMENT TO THE JEDI
ORDER. A COMMITMENT
NOT EASILY BROKEN."

—OBI-WAN TO ANAKIN
EPISODE II - ATTACK OF THE CLONES



"BE MINDFUL OF YOUR
THOUGHTS ANAKIN.
THEY'LL BETRAY YOU"

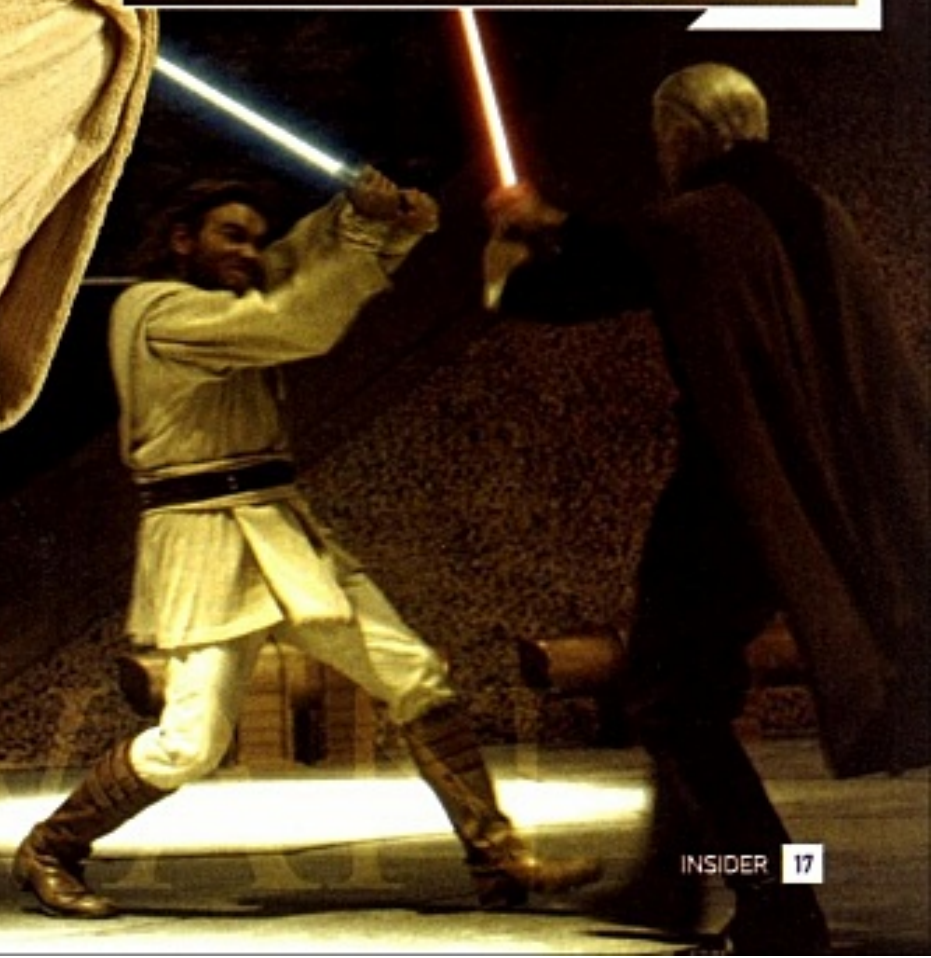
OBI-WAN TO ANAKIN
EPISODE II - ATTACK OF THE CLONES

TRAINING ANAKIN

Kenobi did his best to teach Anakin Skywalker the ways of the Jedi, and Anakin tried hard to please his new Master, but both were often frustrated by what each perceived as the other's limitations. As powerful as Anakin was with the Force, he had difficulty controlling his emotions because his years on Tatooine had not left him a stranger to love, fear, pride, and anger. On more than one occasion, Anakin bitterly accused his Master of preventing him from fulfilling his potential. Kenobi was ill prepared for an apprentice who lacked the experience and discipline of other Padawans, and was surprised to find himself repeatedly echoing Qui-Gon's admonishments on being mindful. But despite their differences, he believed Anakin would become a great Jedi, and came to love his apprentice like a brother. ▶

SITH ENCOUNTERS

Obi-Wan Kenobi not only defeated the Sith Lord Darth Maul at Naboo, but also survived duels with Darth Tyrannus—the Sith alter ego of Count Dooku—and Darth Vader, whom he severely disabled on the volcanic planet Mustafar. In his final confrontation with Vader on the Death Star battle station, Kenobi allowed Vader to strike him down, sacrificing himself so that Luke Skywalker and his allies would live. Incredibly, Kenobi's spirit survived this encounter, thanks to his special training with Qui-Gon Jinn and Yoda.



"ANAKIN, MY ALLEGIANCE IS
TO THE REPUBLIC,
TO DEMOCRACY."

OBI-WAN TO ANAKIN
EPISODE III - REVENGE OF THE SITH



THE NEGOTIATOR

The war between the Republic and the Separatists almost immediately became known as the Clone Wars, which lasted three long, terrible years. Obi-Wan Kenobi served the Republic as a Jedi general, and led his clone troops into many battles against the Separatists and their subsequent reorganization as the Confederacy of Independent Systems. Kenobi's reputation for resolving disputes through diplomacy, and without ever drawing his lightsaber, earned him the moniker "The Negotiator," which also became the name of his flagship, a *Venator*-class Star Destroyer.

The clone CC-2224, better known as Clone Commander Cody, served as Kenobi's first officer in numerous campaigns. Cody's loyalty to the Republic was without question, and Kenobi came to regard the resourceful soldier as a trusted ally.

Kenobi had confrontations with Count Dooku and Dooku's disciple Asajj Ventress, the bounty hunter Durge, and the cybernetic General Grievous. He revisited Tatooine when he met with Jabba the Hutt to discuss terms of safe passage for Republic ships through Hutt sectors, but never imagined that Anakin Skywalker's homeworld would one day become his own home.

Far worse, he never anticipated that Anakin would betray and destroy the Jedi Order, and be transformed into the Dark Lord of the Sith, Darth Vader. By then, Anakin also had become a father.



BEN'S JOURNAL

At a Tatooine junk shop, Kenobi had obtained a leather-bound book with unmarked pages. He used the book as a journal of his life spent on Tatooine, and also for essays and instructions that he hoped might one day help potential Jedi, specifically Luke Skywalker. The book contained detailed instructions for constructing lightsabers, but deliberately omitted information about the true identity of Luke's father. Kenobi kept the book in a locked case in his hut's cellar, where Luke discovered it not long after his confrontation with Darth Vader in Cloud City. Years later, Luke shared the journal with others when he founded his Jedi Academy.

"ONLY A
SITH LORD
DEALS IN
ABSOLUTES.
I WILL DO
WHAT I MUST."

OBI-WAN TO ANAKIN
EPISODE III -
REVENGE OF THE SITH

SECRET GUARDIAN

The Clone Wars ended with the Sith Lords Darth Sidious and his new apprentice Darth Vader in control of much of the galaxy, and the few surviving Jedi were forced into hiding. Before Master Yoda fled to the swamp planet Dagobah, he assigned Kenobi to deliver Anakin's infant son, Luke, to Anakin's stepbrother Owen Lars on Tatooine. Kenobi would remain on Tatooine to watch over Luke, whose existence remained unknown to the Sith Lords.

Owen Lars and his wife Beru agreed to raise Luke on their moisture farm. Kenobi initially took shelter in a nearby abandoned hovel that was within walking distance to the Lars homestead so he could check on Luke daily. But despite his efforts at discretion, Kenobi's lurking presence increasingly rattled Owen, who soon asserted that such frequent patrols might draw unwanted attention, and do more to endanger than protect Luke. Because Owen's point was valid, Kenobi acquiesced and withdrew into the desert.

Seeking shelter elsewhere, he found an abandoned hut in Tatooine's Jundland Wastes. He continued to check on the Lars homestead occasionally, albeit with greater stealth, but his connection with the Force became his main means to monitor Luke from afar. ▶

"I HAVEN'T GONE BY
THE NAME OF OBI-WAN
SINCE, OH, BEFORE
YOU WERE BORN."

OBI-WAN TO LUKE EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE



Kenobi's closest neighbors were the ruthless Tusken Raiders and the scavenging Jawas. Because of his apparently natural ability to survive alone in the desert, repel menacing creatures, and walk without fear across the most treacherous areas, he acquired the reputation of a wizard.

He befriended at least one Jawa clan by helping them with mechanical repairs, and in return they allowed him to ride in their sandcrawler when he needed to travel to the settlements of Bestine and Anchorhead, and the spaceport in Mos Eisley. Another Tatooine location, Ben's Mesa, gave him inspiration for his new first name.

Thirteen years would pass before Ben Kenobi met Luke face-to-face. Luke and a friend had ridden a pet ronto into the Jundland Wastes and gotten lost. When Kenobi found them, they were under attack by a krayt dragon. He subdued the dragon and delivered the boys to the Lars homestead, but Owen was less than pleased to see Kenobi, and told him to leave immediately.

Six years later, Kenobi came to Luke's rescue again after a Tusken Raider had subdued Luke in the Jundland Wastes. On that occasion, Luke was accompanied by a pair of droids, including R2-D2, who had a message for "Obi-Wan Kenobi."

Soon, Kenobi found himself leaving Tatooine with a new apprentice at his side. 🌟



ALEC GUINNESS

AS OBI-WAN KENOBI

ALEC GUINNESS HAD ALREADY ENJOYED A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS AN ACTOR BEFORE HE ACCEPTED THE ROLE OF OBI-WAN KENOBI IN *STAR WARS*, BUT IT WAS HIS ROLE AS THE VENERABLE JEDI THAT WON HIM LEGIONS OF NEW FANS. IN 1977 HE SPOKE WITH MICHAEL PARKINSON ON THE BBC ABOUT THE MAKING OF THE FILM.

"The script came through the door and the minute I saw a sci-fi sticker on it I thought, 'Oh crumbs, this is not for me.' But when I started to read it, I had to turn the page. It had vigor and I finished reading it in one sitting."

"Before we started, [George Lucas] made a gesture that was much more a part of the theatre than the film business. He brought the costumes for the film across to London himself to see if I liked them and he attended all the fittings. That is exceedingly rare."

"I remember somebody criticized George Lucas because of his lack of display and announced that the film was going to be very dull. I took him aside and said, 'Mark my words, this film is going to have some distinction.'"

"George Lucas had very little to say during the filming. He simply sensed when you were uncomfortable, walked across and dropped a brief word in your ear. Good actors don't like to be told how to act."

"The day before *Star Wars* opened in America, George Lucas phoned and said, 'Do you know, I think we have got quite a success. The press quite like it.'"



THE *VOICE* WILL BE WITH YOU, ALWAYS

SCOTT CHERNOFF SAYS "HELLO THERE" TO JAMES ARNOLD TAYLOR AS HE TALKS ABOUT VOICING OBI-WAN KENOBI IN *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS* ALONG WITH HUNDREDS OF OTHER CHARACTERS, AND THE TIME HE WAS NEARLY SILENCED—FOREVER.





He's the heroic Green Arrow on *Batman: The Brave and the Bold*, erstwhile friend Harry Osborn on *The Spectacular Spider-Man*, Ratchet of the hit series of Ratchet & Clank videogames, and the new voice of modern Stone Age family man, Fred Flintstone.

But there's one achievement that towers over the others for voice actor James Arnold Taylor: He's finally fulfilled his life-long fantasy of playing a major role in the *Star Wars* saga, starring as Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*.

"I lived and breathed *Star Wars* as a kid," Taylor says. "We played all the time—but I was always Han Solo. If somebody told me I was going to be Obi-Wan Kenobi, I would have been like, 'Wait, I'm the old guy?'"

But despite his tremendous success performing literally hundreds of cartoon characters and videogame voices over the last two decades, Taylor told *Star Wars Insider* that it nearly all slipped away.

"About four years ago," he reveals, "I lost my voice completely due to toxic mold in our

home. When the doctor said, 'You can't speak,' I was like, 'Uh, that doesn't work.'"

The incident was a stark reminder of just how precious Taylor's instrument—his voice—is to him. "I had to start over and change my whole life," he recalls. "I trained with a gentleman who trains opera singers. I had to learn how to re-use my vocal chords in new and exciting ways."

EARLY INSPIRATION

Luckily for Taylor—and his fans—the hard work paid off. "I'm stronger now than I've ever been. Sometimes, you need something like that to break you down, just to rebuild yourself," he says.

Now back in the game with three animated series on the air, Taylor is free to pursue the one thing he always loved. "I've known since I was four years old that I wanted to do the voices of cartoons," he says, noting that he drew inspiration from legendary performers





"I ACTUALLY LOST MY VOICE COMPLETELY DUE TO TOXIC MOLD IN OUR HOME. WHEN THE DOCTOR SAID, 'YOU CAN'T SPEAK,' I WAS LIKE, 'UH, THAT DOESN'T WORK.'"



like Mel Blanc (who voiced virtually all the Looney Tunes characters), Daws Butler (Yogi Bear), and Don Messick (Scooby Doo and many more). "I was glued to all those guys and memorized their vocal inflections," he recalls.

"I never had any aspirations to be an on-camera actor—I always wanted to be a voice actor. The truth is I'm the luckiest guy in the world to be able to make my living doing what I always wanted to do."

STARTING OUT

Taylor started out doing impressions as a stand-up comic and radio disc jockey when he was just 16, moving south to Hollywood from his native Santa Barbara, California, as soon as he got out of school. His first break came in the obscure world of voice doubling, re-recording

small bits of dialogue for famous actors who were too busy to come in when a small line needed to be changed. He got a job filling in for Michael J. Fox on the Disney animated feature *Atlantis*—and soon found himself taking over the lead role entirely for the sequel, *Atlantis: Milo's Return*. "I just have a knack for picking up voices," he shrugs.

Among the stars Taylor has doubled for videogames and feature film looping are Johnny Depp, Billy Bob Thornton—and Ewan McGregor. He started voicing Obi-Wan Kenobi for the first *Clone Wars* TV micro-series in 2002, then went on to *Star Wars* videogames and now the new hit TV series, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*.

"Originally, it was to be an exact voice match for Ewan McGregor," Taylor says. "We basically have the same sound, the same range. So

"I SAW *STAR WARS* IN A DRIVE-IN THEATER BACK IN 1977, I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD, AND I WAS IN LOVE."



"IT'S MORE THAN AN IMPERSONATOR WOULD DO, BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTER AND BE ABLE TO SAY ANYTHING IN THAT VOICE."

I thought that rather than trying to sound like him, since I know I already do kind of sound like him, I'd just do what he did: try to sound like Alec Guinness. So I started thinking of how he would talk, and I tried to 'young it up,' and went, 'OK, so if I was casually speaking as a young Obi-Wan, I might sound like this.' I didn't concentrate so much on sounding like Ewan McGregor as much as I concentrated on sounding like Obi-Wan Kenobi, the character we all know. That seemed to work."

Taylor explains that for him, focusing too much on precisely matching a specific voice can get in the way of a good performance. "You can get hung up on a voice match where you try too hard to sound like the person and it becomes a caricature. It becomes more the nightclub comic's impersonation. You want to relax in the voice. You really have to understand how that person would act, and you have to be able to act that way. I always have to envision how he would deliver the line. It's more than an impersonator would do, because you have to understand the character and be able to say anything in that voice."

That approach sat well with *Clone Wars* director Dave Filoni and *Star Wars* creator George Lucas. "After we'd started the series and done the film, Dave and George said, 'You have the freedom now to take this and make it your own thing,'" Taylor recalls, adding, "Dave's

vision for Obi-Wan in this series is very specific. He's trying to show Anakin the right way, but he's also the calm in the storm. I'm always the straight guy. Most of the time, I'm pulling the reins back on Anakin and Ahsoka, so I'm like the older brother. Nothing really gets to him. But at the same time, I know people may think sometimes he's a little too reserved, so I'm trying to give him some excitement. Every once in a while, I torture myself and read the message boards, and some people do think he's got to lighten up. But I just think, 'Give him time.' There's something that happened in a second season episode we did recently, and I can't really get into it, but it made me think, 'Oh, we get to see different facets of Obi-Wan in this.' I'm playing a side of Obi-Wan that nobody's really seen before."

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Taylor thinks that the epic scope of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* is allowing a far more personal glimpse of Kenobi than fans have ever seen. "He's such an iconic figure," he says, "but you don't know anything about his personal life. We have many episodes, so now the writers have been exploring those areas. How does he act when he's gotten up on the wrong side of the bed and he's having a bad day? What's his day-to-day relationship with Anakin? It's been fun to work with everybody and create



James Arnold Taylor (far left) joins Tom Kane, Matt Lanter, Dave Filoni and Ashley Eckstein at the world premiere of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* movie!



Plo Koon and Obi-Wan Kenobi: two Jedi heroes voiced by one talented actor!

those parts of his life and his characteristics. I try to put a little of the reserved old Jedi living alone in this deserted part of a desert planet, and the young one who was in the world and so much a part of everything."

At the same time, Taylor has gotten to give voice to a host of other *Star Wars* characters, from fan favorite Plo Koon ("Dave said, 'Think Gandalf,'" he recalls) to espionage droid 4A-7 ("A whiny, high-pitched guy") and the medical droid from *The Clone Wars* movie ("That's me doing kind of a Jeff Goldblum type voice").

"That's another great part about being a voice actor," he says. "You get to be so many different characters all the time."

A REWARDING ROLE

All those characters add up to more reasons Taylor is grateful to have re-gained his voice in time to continue his work in the *Star Wars* universe. "I'm a geek when it comes to this stuff," he said. "I'm a fan as much as anybody else, so I get into the story, and to me, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* is as good as *Lost* or any other great show. I can't wait to see the next season, just like everybody else."

Thinking back on his journey, Taylor adds, "It's so rewarding. I get so much fan mail from people all over the world, and I'm not trying to sound corny but it moves me—because I've always been a fan, and I've sent fan letters to people I respect and gotten autographs before, too. So when I get letters from people about how they're sharing *Star Wars* with their kids, and they're thanking me for helping them see this whole universe in a different way, I kind of trip out on it. Daily, I go, 'Wow, I'm involved in this world, and not just on the sidelines—I'm really involved in the *Star Wars* universe.' It's a great honor." ☺



EWAN MCGREGOR

AS OBI-WAN KENOBI

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ALEC GUINNESS, EWAN MCGREGOR PLAYED THE PART OF A YOUNGER OBI-WAN IN THE THREE *STAR WARS* PREQUELS, DEFINING THE ROLE FOR A WHOLE NEW GENERATION.

"They said, 'Do I want to be in *Star Wars*? I said 'Too right!'"

"My challenge was to be a young Alec Guinness. People would say to me, 'You sounded a bit like Alec Guinness. Did that just happen?' No! It's my job, you know?"

"I watched the original *Star Wars* over and over again. I loved it as a kid. It was a bit funny to be paid for it. I'd say to my wife, 'I've got to go and watch *Star Wars* again! Sorry. I just haven't quite got it....'"

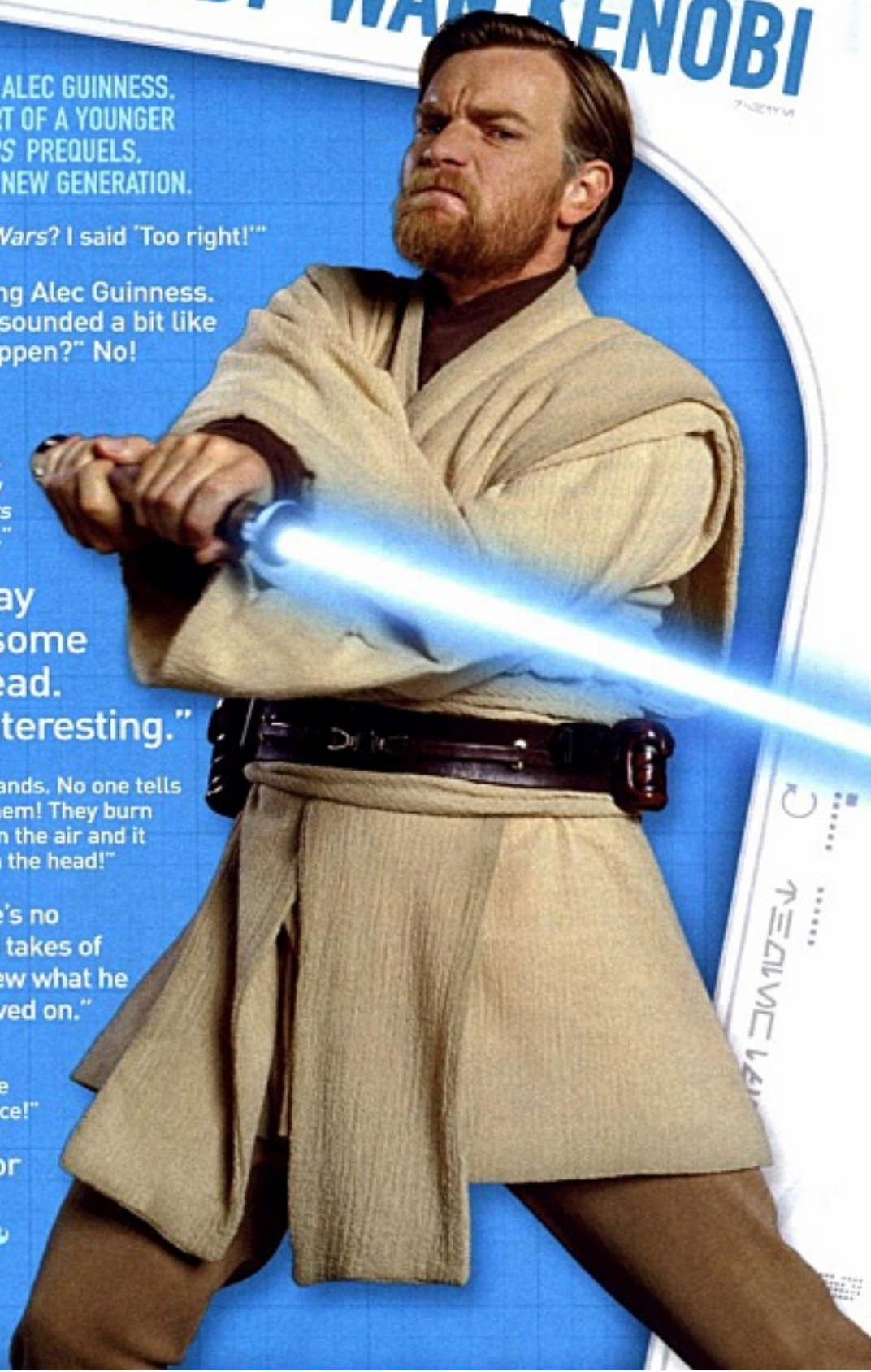
"I really wanted to play Princess Leia! Stick some big pastries on my head. Now, that would be interesting."

"My lightsaber flew out of my hands. No one tells you they have got batteries in them! They burn your hands! I tossed my saber in the air and it ended up hitting a technician on the head!"

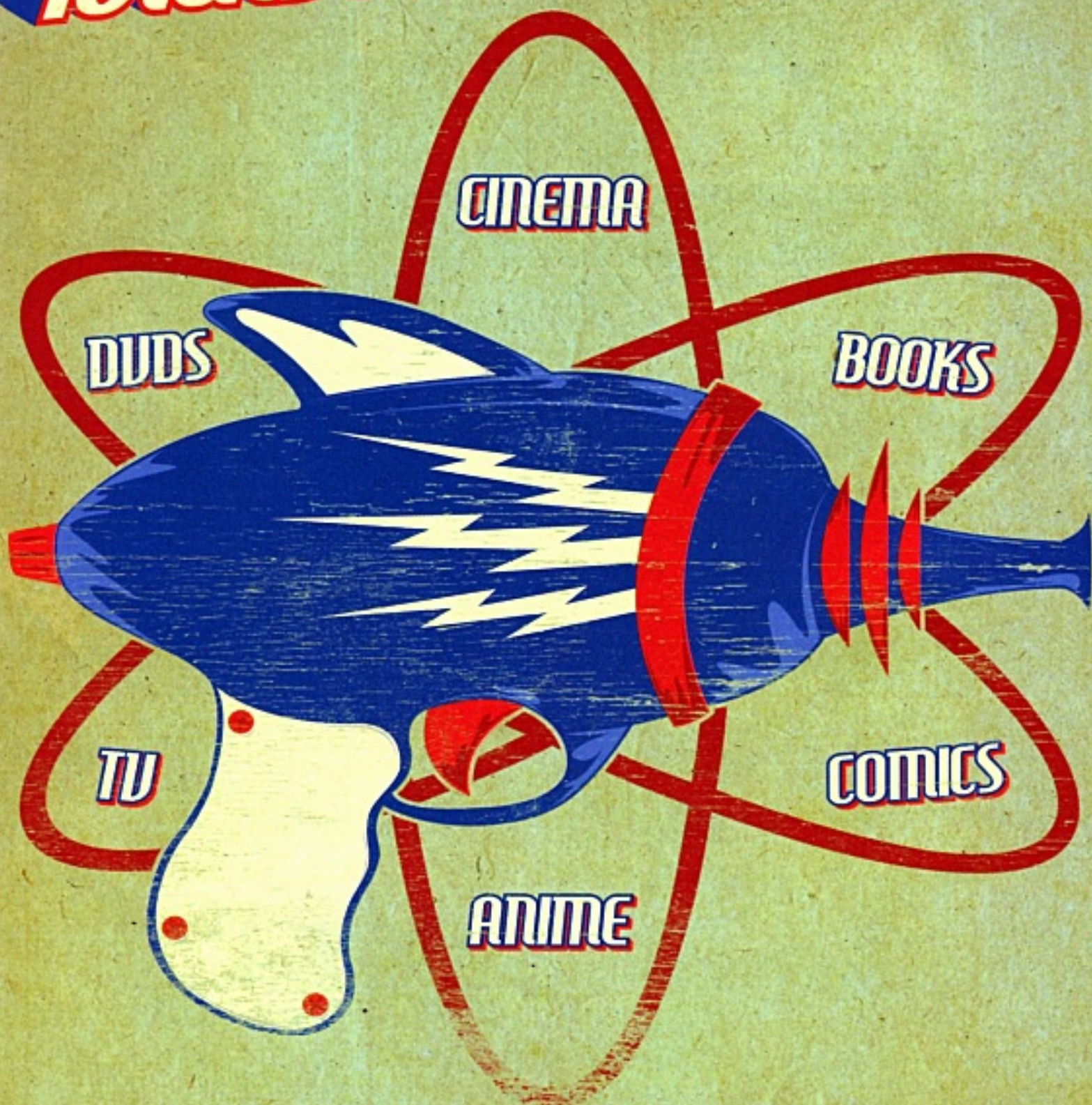
"I like George Lucas because there's no messing about. There were no 100 takes of me walking through a door. He knew what he wanted and when he got it, we moved on."

"During a press junket, I managed to convince a Dutch journalist that we were shooting Episode II entirely in outer space!"

"I love being in *Star Wars*, for my kids and for other kids. I see it through their eyes." 🌌

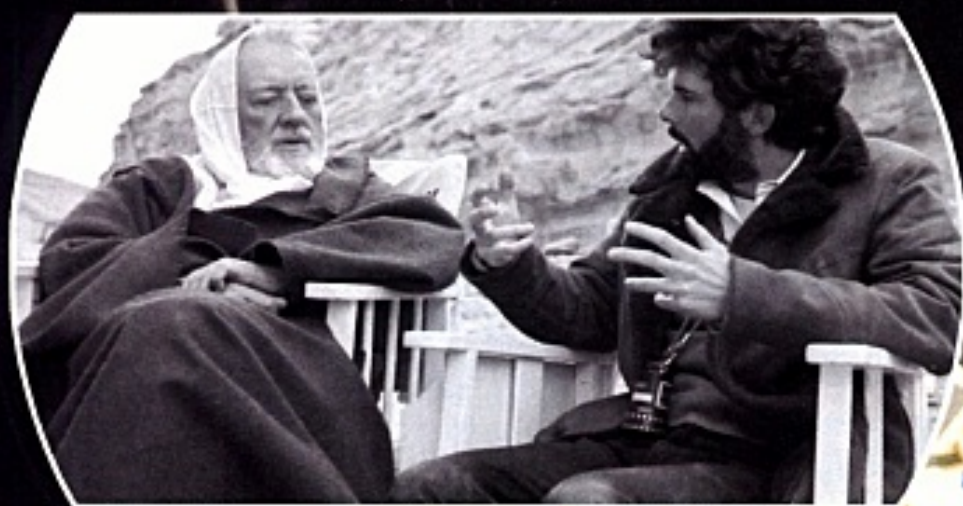



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From top left: Alec Guinness shares a joke with Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker) in Tunisia; discusses a scene with George Lucas; leans on an unmasked Darth Vader (David Prowse). Main Image: On the *Millennium Falcon* set with Mark Hamill, Peter Mayhew and Harrison Ford. 🌌

JEDI ARCHIVE

RARELY SEEN IMAGES FROM THE LUCASFILM ARCHIVES

TREASURE TROVE

JAMES BURNS GOES BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE EXHIBITION OF RARE STAR WARS ARTIFACTS THAT ACCOMPANIES *STAR WARS: IN CONCERT!*

STARS OF THE GALAXY
THE POWER OF THE FORCE
THE JOURNALS OF THE FORCE
THE JOURNALS OF THE FORCE

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STARS OF THE GALAXY
THE POWER OF THE FORCE
THE JOURNALS OF THE FORCE
THE JOURNALS OF THE FORCE



David Iskra's career has included working with the characters of *Sesame Street*, followed by seven years working on the production side of Disney Cruise Lines and some of the largest stage events at Walt Disney World, including Tarzan Rocks and Festival of the Lion King. He helped supervise Disney's annual *Star Wars* Weekends and worked for two and a half years at Lucasfilm as part of the small internal team that in 2007 managed three 30th anniversary events: the amazing *Star Wars* contingent in the Tournament of Roses Parade, *Star Wars Celebration IV* in Los Angeles, and *Star Wars Celebration Europe* in London. Leaving Lucasfilm to join Another Planet Entertainment, he is now the curator of the exhibition that accompanies *Star Wars: In Concert* as it tours the world.



David Iskra

Was London especially challenging?

Yes, as the first stop on the tour, it was the place where we got to work everything out. We need to set everything up and then decide how to transport all of these items with care.

What has been the most challenging part of bringing the exhibition to life?

Our biggest challenge was the fact that all of these items are so precious and delicate.

They were designed to be used in a film for just a few minutes or a few scenes. They weren't made to be loaded onto trucks or planes and carted around the world to different cities every couple of days. There was a lot of potential for wear and tear that we need to guard against, but there was also a lot of focus on making the exhibition look great. Lucasfilm has done a excellent job of that in the past, but we've never had to load it all on a truck every few days!

How do you look after all these pieces as you travel?

With great care! We have an excellent team: a head carpenter who really knows his stuff, an exhibit director, and a lot of people with various skills including art, fabrication, and design.

How was each object transported to London?

All of the items traveled from Lucasfilm in San Francisco by air. We had people working all over the world on this show but few had actually been in the same place together until we arrived in London.

Each case was specially built for the exhibition in Pennsylvania. Normally you have a road case that everything gets thrown into when loaded onto trucks, but we've actually built the display cases so that they transform into road cases. We've built them so that they look great on display and are well lit, but are also mobile and can be easily loaded. The team developed universal restraints that are put inside each mannequin case to ensure they're secure and won't move around when they're on the road. Certain items, such as Darth Vader's helmet, have to be removed from the mannequin and be put into specially-built foam cases to ensure safety. Plo Koon is probably the hardest display to move because he has such an ornate face mask and delicate tusks. We have special devices to go around him to make sure he's kept extra safe.

How did you go about working out how everything was going to be displayed?

We had various ideas, but you know what they say about the best-laid plans! When we arrived

Darth Vader, displayed in all his towering glory.



Below: A Neimoidian Warrior stands guard over the exhibition.



"WE HAD PEOPLE WORKING ALL OVER THE WORLD ON THIS SHOW AND NOBODY HAD ACTUALLY BEEN IN THE SAME ROOM TOGETHER UNTIL WE ARRIVED IN LONDON!"



An Ewok warrior [no, you can't take him home]!



An A-wing pilot's helmet.

As well as costumes, the exhibition showcases a number of cool blasters!



C-3PO

in London and started to assemble the exhibit we realized that some of the plans just wouldn't work. All the objects need to look as good as possible at every venue. And because every object is unique, they all need to be treated and transported in slightly different ways. Chewbacca, for example, is very different than Vader because one is animal hair and the other is hard armor. Then you have very delicate latex masks for Plo Koon and Kit Fisto, and beautiful but delicate gowns for Amidala and the handmaidens. Some of the costumes are separated from their helmets or masks for transportation, while others remain together.

How long does it take to set up?

When we arrive at a site we only have a limited amount of time to get the exhibition ready. The work that the Skywalker Ranch archivists usually do over the course of several days has to be compressed into a couple of hours, and repeated every few days. Some of the mannequins that we take apart for transport need to be completely redressed, and that takes time. We've certainly got our work cut out!

What's your favorite piece?

I'd have to say Plo Koon. I've made fun of Dave Filoni [supervising director of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*] for liking the character so much, but now that Plo is actually in the case and well lit, he's pretty impressive. My second favorite are the Royal Guards. They look so great, the colors are really striking, and the helmets are so ominous.

So do you know where the show is headed next? The tour resumes in October in Southern California and will travel across the U.S. up to the holidays.

The schedule and ticket information are available at <http://starwarsinconcert.com> and there also will be frequent updates and extensive coverage at <http://starwars.com>.



A Naboo pilot's costume.

NO NEED FOR AGITATION. WE'RE ALL FRIENDS...

...AND WITH REST...YOUR YOUNG MASTER WILL BE *FINE*!

BEN!
IS IT...
REALLY
YOU?
B-BENN-N-N

I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND *PESSIMISTIC*, KIDS, BUT OUR INSTRUMENTS AREN'T REGISTERING ANY *LIFE SIGNS*...
NOT A *BLIP*!

THE EMPIRE STRIPS BACK

WE'RE ON SOMETHING THE NATIVES OF ARIDUS CALL A *WIND-RUNNER*...

...AND IT'S CARRYING US TO REJOIN **OBI-WAN KENOBI**!

YOU SUFFERED A *NASTY BLOW* FROM FLYING DEBRIS WHEN WE BLEW UP THAT IMPERIAL HOVER-TRAIN!

DAN WALLACE INVESTIGATES THE HISTORY OF THE CLASSIC *STAR WARS* NEWSPAPER STRIPS—ONE OF THE EARLIEST EXAMPLES OF THE EXPANDED UNIVERSE!

Back in 1979, *Star Wars* fans were operating without a net. Without the Internet, that is—not to mention no videogames, ongoing animated series, or even in-home viewing of their favorite movie. Instead, comics, novels, and the notorious *Star Wars Holiday Special* helped feed the frenzy, but all of them were dwarfed by the cumulative audience of the daily *Star Wars* newspaper strip.

Every weekday and Sunday for five years, bite-sized installments of *Star Wars* appeared for millions of readers in major newspapers across the U.S. and Canada. The "funnies pages" had long played host to sci-fi strips such as Buck Rogers and Superman, and *Star Wars*, which wore its pulp influences on its sleeve, easily transitioned to the newspaper page. It helped that the strip was illustrated by two industry legends: Russ Manning (Magnus, Robot Fighter) and Al Williamson (Flash Gordon).

The newspaper medium, of course, was so disposable that "yesterday's news" was used to wrap fish. Readers who missed the strips the first time around were out of luck, including many fans attracted by the *Star Wars* renaissance of the 1990s. Recognizing an opportunity to bring the forgotten stories to a new group of fans, Dark Horse Comics spearheaded an ambitious reprint program that brought the newspaper strips to fresh, four-color life.

GENESIS

Beginning in February 1979, the *L.A. Times* Newspaper Syndicate distributed the *Star Wars* newspaper strip to daily papers throughout North America. The first storyline, "Gambler's World," came from writer/illustrator Russ Manning and took seven months to tell. Typical for stories of the period it continued where *A New Hope* left off, sending Luke (still wearing his white farm togs) and Leia (still sporting a bun



SKYWALKER'S SUSPICION IS RISING, ACTOR! JOIN ME IN THE CONTROL CHAMBER...I REQUIRE A FINAL SCENE FROM YOU!



hairdo) on a mission for the Rebel Alliance.

Illness forced Manning to abandon the strip in 1980 just as *The Empire Strikes Back* promised to pump fresh ideas into the franchise. Writer Archie Goodwin (credited under the pseudonym Russ Helm) took over with "Planet of Kadril," which featured art by Alfredo Alcala and oddball plot elements including aliens "descended from Earth-like chameleons" and a sneezing Wookiee. This was followed by an adaptation of the Brian Daley novel *Han Solo at Star's End* (Alcala and Goodwin again, this time without the pseudonym).

In 1981, legendary artist Al Williamson joined Goodwin for the story arc "The Bounty Hunter of Ord Mantell." Williamson had been approached back in 1977 about working on the planned *Star Wars* newspaper strip, but declined due to his contract with King Features. After parting ways with King, he illustrated (with writer Goodwin) the adaptation of *The Empire Strikes Back* for Marvel Comics, clearing the road for a regular newspaper gig. Their fruitful collaboration marked a golden age of bizarre beasts, treacherous reversals, and guest appearances by Dengar, Admiral Ackbar, and Boba Fett, predating his movie debut in *The Empire Strikes Back*. The strip was eventually cancelled in 1984.

REBIRTH

In the early 1990s, Dark Horse acquired the *Star Wars* comics license from Lucasfilm and published original series including *Dark Empire*. But the newspaper strips, particularly the Goodwin/Williamson tales, attracted the attention of publisher Mike Richardson. "Mike was a big fan of Al Williamson's work, and had at least one piece of his original



...SO DOES MY EMPLOYER, JABBA THE HUTT! POSSIBLY IN SATISFYING HIM...I CAN SATISFY YOU ALSO!

A PARTICULAR REBEL INTERESTS ME, BOBA FETT... LUKE SKYWALKER!

A COMPANION OF THE MAN I'M AFTER... HAN SOLO!

ONE MIGHT LURE THE OTHER, LORD VADER! SHOULD MY FELLOW BOUNTY HUNTERS SUCCEED...

AND COLLECT TWO REWARDS INSTEAD OF ONE, BOUNTY HUNTER?

...SOLO COULD SERVE THAT FUNCTION BEFORE WE GIVE HIM TO JABBA!

...DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I'LL BE AROUND THREEPIO.



YOU'RE ENTERPRISING, FETT! PERHAPS WE WILL MEET AGAIN... WHEN YOUR ENTERPRISE BEARS FRUIT!

artwork displayed on his office wall," remembers former editor Bob Cooper. Although Williamson was under contract to Marvel at the time, the newspaper strips offered an opportunity for Williamson's work to appear under the Dark Horse logo. "Mike realized he could get his hands on a huge cache of ready-made, reprintable Star Wars material, as well as pull Al into at least a tenuous affiliation with Dark Horse."



CAPTAIN SOLO, THE FLEET'S FINAL REPORT FROM MASTER LUKE INDICATED HIS SCOUT SHIP WAS BREAKING UP!

HE PROBABLY JETTISONED GOLDENROD!

EVERY WEEKDAY AND SUNDAY FOR FIVE YEARS, BITE-SIZED INSTALLMENTS OF *STAR WARS* APPEARED TO MILLIONS OF READERS IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE U.S. AND CANADA

The reprint series, *Classic Star Wars*, would not only bring these stories to a wider audience, but would offer them in color and reformatted for the comic-book page. The task was easier in concept than execution. Anina Bennett, the first editor on *Classic Star Wars*, used a three-volume hardcover set of Goodwin/Williamson reprints (published in 1990 by Russ Cochran) to get an initial sense of flow. Williamson bundled several batches of his original strip art and sent them to Dark Horse, which created high-quality Photostats. Dark Horse then trimmed credit boxes and "Copyright Lucasfilm" notices, dropped redundant dialogue balloons, and varied the panel size and layout to fit the vertical dimensions of a comic-book page.

"Although painstakingly tedious, I began to look forward to the two or three days a month when I got to shut the door to my office, get out my scissors and glue stick, and figure out how to put all the pieces of this fascinating little puzzle together," says Cooper. "The geometric challenges exercised the left half of my brain, effectively balancing out the right-brain creative aspects of the job." Dark Horse ultimately decided to vary the page count of each issue between 24 and 32 pages, to prevent a forced break in the middle of a story.

On the FAR side of the X-Wing wreckage...

MASTER LUKE AND ARTOO... HIDING! SO THEY WOULDN'T BE DETECTED BY ENEMY SHIPS!

...I COULD SWEAR I DETECTED SOMETHING MOVING OUTSIDE! PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK, MASTER LUKE...

ONLY... BY MY CALCULATIONS... WE SHOULD'VE SPOTTED HIM BY NOW! AND--

SIR! WRECKAGE AHEAD, BUT... NO TRACE OF MASTER LUKE OR ARTOO!



The Goodwin/Williamson output ran for 20 issues of *Classic Star Wars*. Williamson himself was involved in the reformatting process, and contributed original

covers and fill-in art (assisted by his protégé Allen Nunis). "Al had a very obvious paternal attachment toward the presentation of the series as a whole, and basically provided a stamp of approval on each issue," says Cooper. "In the first issue I edited, a significant coloring error in one panel that got past me in the color proofing stage brought the wrath of Al down heavily on this poor, fledgling editor. From that point on I probably spent more time than anyone poring over the color proofs for each issue to make sure that I wouldn't let down Al again." Williamson was also a major factor in getting

THE PLANNED REPRINT SERIES, *CLASSIC STAR WARS*, WOULD NOT ONLY BRING THESE STORIES TO A WIDER AUDIENCE, BUT WOULD OFFER THEM IN COLOR AND REFORMATTED FOR THE COMIC-BOOK PAGE.

artists such as Mark Schultz, Bret Blevins, Tom Yeates, and George Evans to contribute *Classic Star Wars* covers. "All it took was a call from Al to prime the pump," remembers Cooper. "I also contacted Frank Kelly Freas, the great science fiction artist, to do a cover, but it didn't pass muster with Al. He told me in very strident terms that if we used it as the cover, he'd insist

STRIP TEASERS

HALF A DECADE'S WORTH OF STORIES CAN BE FOUND IN THE *STAR WARS* NEWSPAPER STRIP. THE *CLASSIC STAR WARS* COLLECTIONS OFFER THE BEST WAY FOR MODERN READERS TO GET UP TO SPEED, BUT THE PAID HYPERSPACE SECTION ON STARWARS.COM PROVIDES MANY OF THE STRIPS ONLINE IN THEIR ORIGINAL THREE-PANEL FORMATS. SOME OF THE BEST TALES INCLUDE:

"THE KASHYYYK DEPTHS"

WRITER/ARTIST: Russ Manning

This tale has never been collected or reprinted. Bearing the unofficial title "The Kashyyyk Depths," it brings Han and Chewie to the jungles of the Wookiee homeworld (which is spelled here as "Kashyyk"). Although few have read the tale, some elements—such as the caterpillar-like sureggis—have since appeared in other *Star Wars* sources.

"TATOOINE SOJOURN"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Steve Gerber, Russ Manning

This tale centers on Luke Skywalker's return to Tatooine, where he investigates an outbreak of infectious disease spread by verminous pests called squills.



"PRINCESS LEIA, IMPERIAL SERVANT"

WRITER/ARTIST: Russ Manning

Princess Leia takes center-stage as she goes undercover as a slave to the widow of the late Grand Moff Tarkin.



"BRING ME THE CHILDREN"

WRITER/ARTIST: Russ Manning

Darth Vader targets innocent children in this tale, which features a memorable turn by a lizard-like Imperial officer who can shed his tail.

"THE FROZEN WORLD OF OTA"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Russ Manning, Rick Hoberg, Alfredo Alcalá, Dave Stevens

The final Russ Manning story features a guest appearance by Boba Fett. Due to Manning's declining health (he passed away in 1981), his protégé Rick Hoberg, inker Alfredo Alcalá, and Dave Stevens (*The Rocketeer*) all pitched in to complete it.



"HAN SOLO AT STARS' END"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Alfredo Alcalá

The only newspaper strip that was an adaptation of a separate work, this retelling of Brian Daley's novel also had its own three-issue reprint series in 1997.



CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE ►►►

CONTINUED.....

1981 "THE BOUNTY HUNTER OF ORD MANTELL"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson

This story expands on a throwaway line from *The Empire Strikes Back* for its central tale of manhunters tracking Han Solo. This and subsequent Goodwin/Williamson team-ups are widely considered the newspaper strip's high-water mark.

"DARTH VADER STRIKES"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson

This tale uses the construction of Darth Vader's Super Star Destroyer *Executor* as its backdrop.

1982 "TRAITOR'S GAMBIT"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson

Underwater adventures abound on the planet Aquaris, as Han and Luke face treachery and battle a gigantic demonsquid.

"THE RETURN OF BEN KENOBI"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson

When Luke believes that Obi-Wan Kenobi has come back to life, he nearly falls prey to one of Vader's elaborate traps.

"ICEWORLD"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson

Luke discovers Hoth and decides that its frozen wastes would be perfect for a new Rebel base. He also meets two droids disguised as humans, a concept later revisited in the 1996 novel *Shadows of the Empire*.

"REVENGE OF THE JEDI"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson

Though this story borrows the original name of the movie *Return of the Jedi*, it details the Rebel evacuation of Yavin following *A New Hope*. It marks Admiral Ackbar's first chronological appearance.

1983 "RACE FOR SURVIVAL"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson

The Rebel fleet breaks Vader's Yavin blockade and escapes to hyperspace, bound for a new base on Hoth.

1984 "SHOWDOWN"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson

Empire bad guys Dengar, Bossk, and Boba Fett team with Skorr (from "The Bounty Hunter of Ord Mantell") in an attempt to capture Han and Luke on—where else?—Ord Mantell.

"THE FINAL TRAP"

WRITER/ARTISTS: Archie Goodwin, Al Williamson

R2-D2 and C-3PO are sent to investigate a messenger drone where they trigger Darth Vader's telepathic ambush. Concluding on March 11, 1984, this was the final installment of the *Star Wars* newspaper strip.

As Luke cautiously makes his way toward the Iron Tower's control chamber...



on having his name removed from the credits. It was tough for me to call up Kelly and explain, but despite some awkwardness he ultimately understood Al's vested interest in the series, and acceded to using it as a 'pin-up' instead."

GENESIS

Once the Goodwin/Williamson tales had run their course, it seemed only natural to go back to where it had all started: the Russ Manning strips. "My natural completist tendencies took root and I began to envision reprinting the entire run of newspaper strips," says Cooper. "The sales figures for *Classic Star Wars* seemed more than respectable enough to indicate that Dark Horse could continue to profitably publish reprints. Those things, coupled with my serious adoration of Russ Manning's artwork on Dell and Gold Key comics such as *Tarzan* and *Magnus, Robot Fighter* prompted me to figure out a way. The Dark Horse powers-that-be had given the project a green light, which was dependent on our ability to track down reproduction-quality artwork."

COLLECTORS HAVE THEIR WORK CUT OUT FOR THEM, BUT FANS NEW TO THE STRIPS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO HOURS OF ADVENTURES WAITING TO BE READ.

The *MILLENNIUM FALCON* zooms on to rout more enemies...



Right: Rare production art showing colorist notes for Dark Horse Comics' reprint of the *Star Wars* newspaper strips. The numbers indicate percentages of colors that needed to be mixed together to create the finished tones.



...unaware that an Imperial bomber plunges toward the surface...



Steve Succell

As Luke slashes to free the girl...



T-THING'S FANTASTICALLY STRONG! GOT TO REACH MY BLASTER! GOT TO!



Cooper eventually located a collector who possessed a complete set of newspaper syndicate tearsheets which became the basis for a new reprint series, *Classic Star Wars: The Early Adventures*. Dark Horse contracted artist Rick Hoberg to do the reformatting and touch-up work required on Manning's strips. "We were flying blind with the Manning stuff," Cooper recalls. "I don't remember having any reproductions other than the tearsheets to work off of in following the story."

The Manning tales also had a notable tonal shift from those told by Goodwin and Williamson, feeling like "a *Star Wars* Saturday morning cartoon show as done by Ruby-Spears [animation company]," according to Cooper. "In hindsight,

I'm a little surprised that Lucasfilm gave the go-ahead to publish them, as far removed from the continuity as they were. But for me, the artwork trumped whatever shortcomings the stories had."

Classic Star Wars: The Early Adventures ended with issue #9. Dark Horse later reprinted the *Han Solo at Stars' End* adaptation, as well as an edited compilation of Russ Manning Sunday strips as the single-issue *Star Wars Special: The Constancia Affair*. And while many stories later appeared in their original strip format on the premium area of *starwars.com*, some tales still have yet to be reprinted in any form. Collectors have their work cut out for them, but fans new to the strips can look forward to hours of adventures waiting to be read. ☺



WHERE SCIENCE MEETS...

FUN!



UNCLE MILTON BRINGS THE
TECHNOLOGY OF *STAR WARS*
INTO OUR OWN GALAXY WITH
A NEW LINE OF SCIENCE AND
NATURE EXPLORATION PRODUCTS
CERTAIN TO STIMULATE OUR
BUDDING INTERNAL SCIENTIST.

WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE



Though seemingly uncanny, the device is actually based on technology used for EEGs [electroencephalographs]. These medical instruments measure and record electrical activity in the brain through electrodes placed on the scalp. (A common use of an EEG is to clinically diagnose epileptic seizures or comas in patients.)

Uncle Milton initially came upon the technology several years ago at a consumer electronics show and quickly realized its potential. The *Star Wars* license provided the perfect platform; the company developed a working sample in order to demonstrate "the Force" to Lucasfilm, and nailed the license.

"The wireless headset is essentially listening for a certain brainwave pattern," says Adler. "When that brainwave reaches a certain level, it transmits it to the training tower. You are basically activating a fan in the base of the unit, and the more you concentrate, the more you control the speed of that fan. When your concentration drops, the fan speed drops." Thus the level of concentration raises or lowers the training sphere within the cylinder.

"If you can put yourself into a meditative state, you will do extremely well," says Adler. "I get into a state of concentration and just block everything out. When I focus, I can absolutely feel when it's about to move—and it does!"



FROM ANTS TO AQUASAURS!

The Force Trainer is just one of many new products in Uncle Milton's lineup; aspiring *Star Wars* biologists can also raise fresh water crustaceans and tadpoles in authentic *Star Wars* habitats.

"Uncle Milton is famous for the original ant farm," explains Adler. "It was created in 1956 and has become an evergreen item in the toy industry. Over the years, we've come up with a number of other habitats." One of the most popular—aquasaurs—has been adapted as the Naboo Sea

Creatures set. Properly referred to as triops longicaudatus, these little

Fans of *Star Wars* may recognize the name Uncle Milton Industries from its popular line of *Indiana Jones* discovery products, but this leader in educational science and nature toys leaps from archeology to science fiction with a new line of *Star Wars* learning toys now debuting.

Designed to both entertain and educate young minds, these engaging products teach the scientific workings and applications behind robotics, optics, visual projection, and much more.

Frank Adler, executive vice president of Uncle Milton, says the company's key challenge is "How do we get kids excited about science? And because kids respond to *Star Wars* in such an incredible way," he

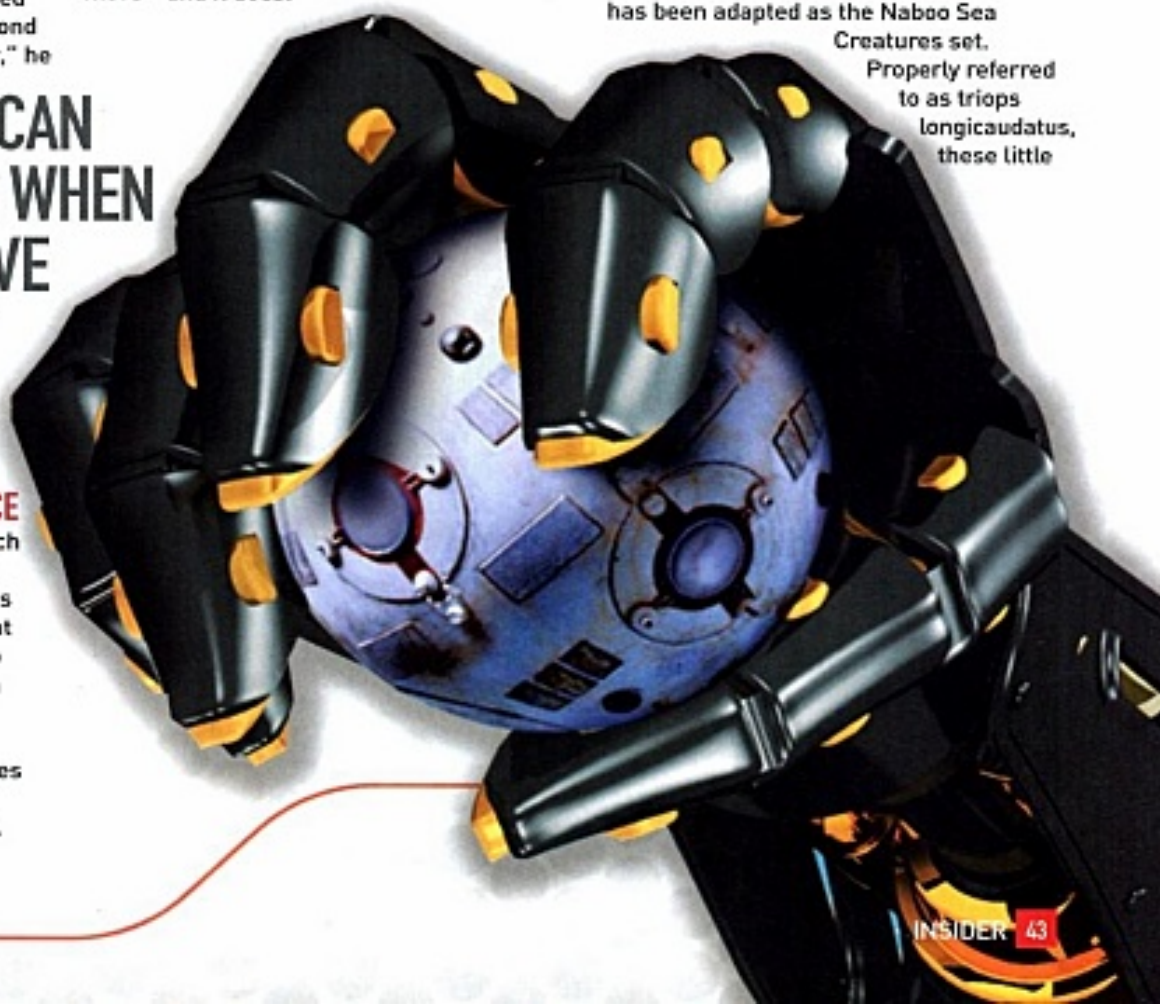
"WHEN I FOCUS, I CAN ABSOLUTELY FEEL WHEN IT'S ABOUT TO MOVE—AND IT DOES!"

adds, "there's a fantastic marriage between *Star Wars* and great science products that will excite them."

LEARNING THE WAYS OF THE FORCE

These extraordinary new products, such as the Force Trainer, are designed to excite—and amaze—both kids and fans of all ages, as consumers can feel what it might be like to channel the Force to levitate a Jedi training remote through real mind control.

Utilizing cutting-edge brainwave technology, the Force Trainer harnesses deep mental focus to move a training sphere up and down a cylindrical tube.



fresh water crustaceans are found in the southwest deserts of the United States.

"These creatures actually date back more than 350 million years," explains Adler. "The eggs can lie dormant for up to 25 years at a time, and they won't hatch unless they encounter water. When they do, they hatch within 24 hours. It's the perfect little creature to drop into the world of Naboo."

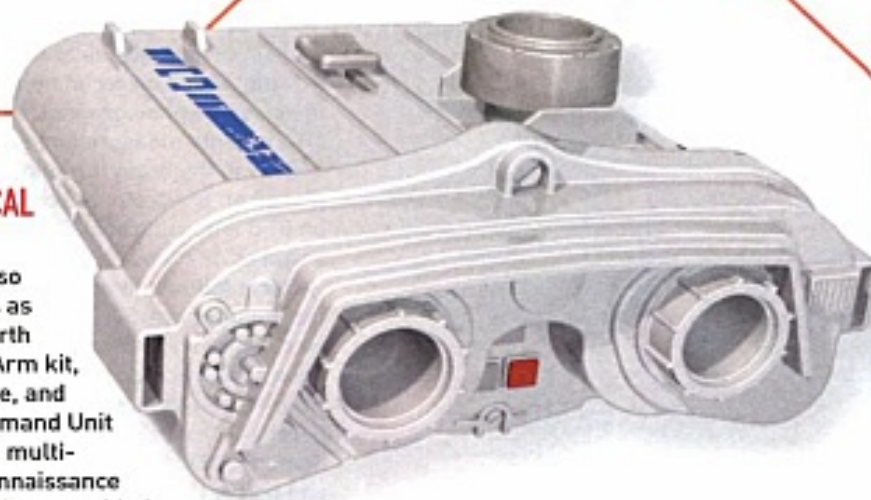
Uncle Milton's other scaled *Star Wars* ecosystem is the Dagobah Frog Habitat. The set includes a mail-in coupon for live tadpoles that can be raised within Yoda's humble environment.

"You'll feed them and take care of them," says Adler, "and watch them morph into leopard frogs that can grow up to three inches long."

TECHNOLOGICAL TERRORS!

Uncle Milton also produces items as diverse as a Darth Vader Robotic Arm kit, a Jedi Telescope, and an Optical Command Unit that works as a multi-functional reconnaissance device that can be assembled into binoculars, a magnifier, and a mini-projector with three "holographic" images. For larger display, the LED Jedi Projector showcases the vehicles of *The Clone Wars*, with an impressive 24-image slideshow, narrated by Captain Rex.

No line of scientific learning toys would be complete without the staple of the school science fair—the erupting



volcano! Uncle Milton's spin on this old favorite—the Mustafar Volcano kit—allows kids to relive the climactic duel between Anakin and Obi-Wan over realistic (but thankfully not as deadly) lava flows.

Uncle Milton's tagline—Where Learning Meets Imagination—is clearly evident in the scope and ingenuity of its new products. With the recent decline of American students pursuing careers

"WE DON'T THINK THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO INSPIRE KIDS THAN THROUGH THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF *STAR WARS*."



Ashley Eckstein
AKA Ahsoka Tano
(left) uses
the Force!

as scientists and engineers, Uncle Milton hopes to help change that statistic.

"Our society needs kids to be more interested in science and engineering, and this is a small part in reaching them. We think there isn't a better way to inspire kids than through the science and technology of *Star Wars*." 🌟

STAR TREK

M A G A Z I N E



PREPARE TO BE ASSIMILATED!

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- ▲ A full history of the most feared race in *Star Trek* history
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DATABANK

Savage nomads whose brutality strikes terror into the hearts of the residents of Tatooine, the fearsome Tusken Raiders, otherwise known as Sandpeople, were as dangerous as they were mysterious.

With a name derived from a barbaric, merciless, and sustained attack on Fort Tusken, they were a species defined by their alien indifference to other life forms. Strategically adept enough to know not to engage an enemy they could not defeat, Tusken Raiders would wait until the odds were more firmly stacked in its favor before engaging in battle.

As moisture farmer Clegg Lars once remarked, "Those Tusks walk like men, but they're really vicious, mindless monsters."

PROFILE

HOMEWORLD: TATOOINE

SPECIES: HUMANOID

GENDER: MALE/FEMALE

HEIGHT: 1.8 TO 1.9 METERS

WEAPON: GADERFFII STICK, RIFLE

TRANSPORT: BANTHA

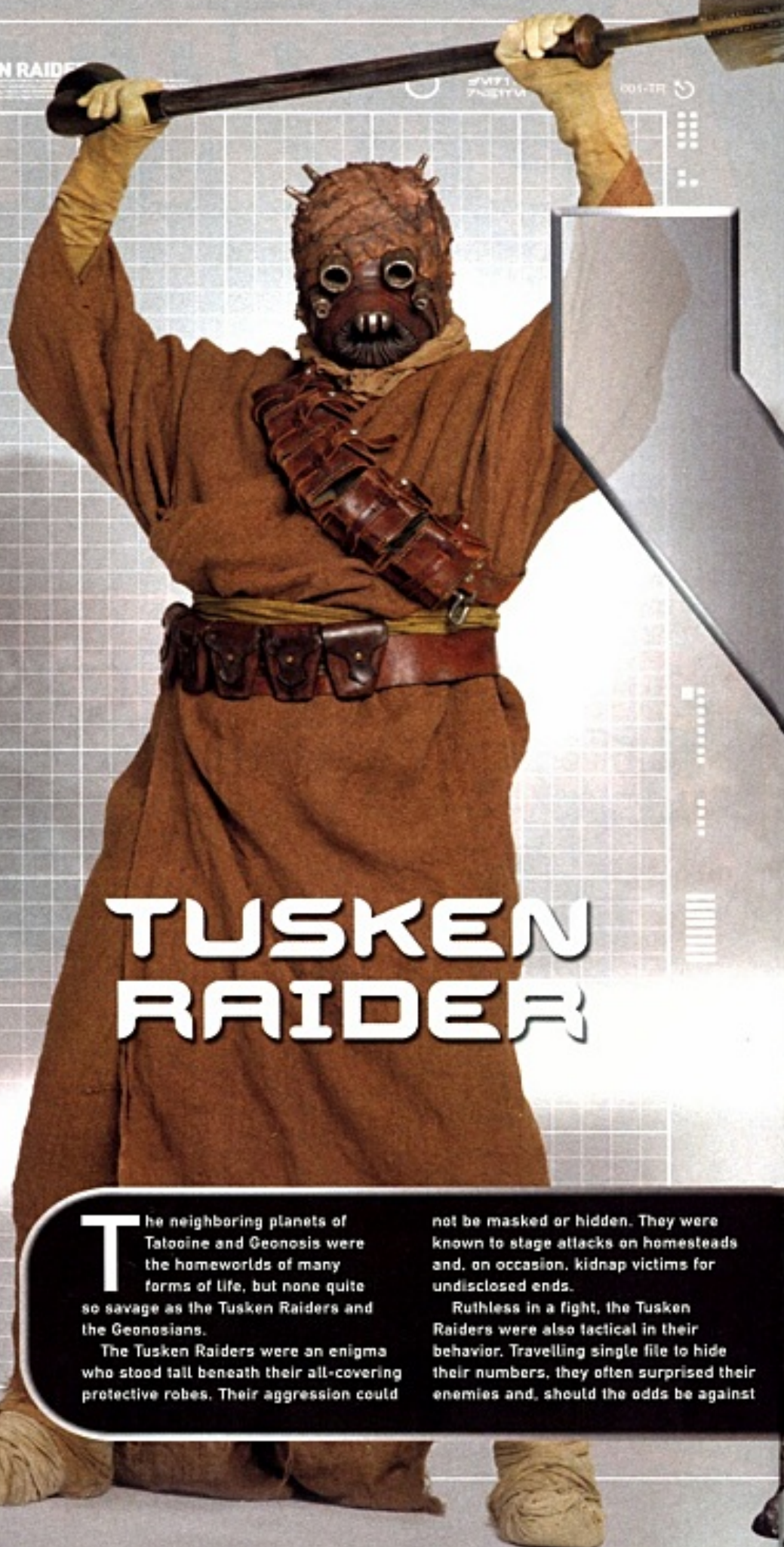
AFFILIATION: NONE

SKILLS

Unskilled in battle and therefore dependant on rage and the element of surprise, the Tusken Raider was a formidable opponent in combat. Able to craft a gaderffii stick from salvaged scrap, and proficient in riding a bantha, these warriors were more skilled at close combat than a long range battle. The ability to survive in the desolate wastes of Tatooine was an indication of this species' powerful instinct for self preservation.

STRENGTH	80
SPEED	85
POWER	80
LEADERSHIP	30
MOBILITY	85
LOYALTY	80
SPECIAL ABILITY	90
BONUS SKILL	40

TUSKEN RAIDER



TUSKEN RAIDER

The neighboring planets of Tatooine and Geonosis were the homeworlds of many forms of life, but none quite so savage as the Tusken Raiders and the Geonosians.

The Tusken Raiders were an enigma who stood tall beneath their all-covering protective robes. Their aggression could

not be masked or hidden. They were known to stage attacks on homesteads and, on occasion, kidnap victims for undisclosed ends.

Ruthless in a fight, the Tusken Raiders were also tactical in their behavior. Travelling single file to hide their numbers, they often surprised their enemies and, should the odds be against

GEONOSIAN WARRIOR

DATABANK

Geonosians, often called Geos or bugs by clone troopers, were an insectoid species native to the planet Geonosis. Communicating in a language of clicks and whistles, they were divided into a variety of castes with the warrior caste ready for combat at the age of six. The warrior caste was divided between the elite and the regulars. The elite warriors were genetically superior and more battle savvy, while the regulars were treated as cannon fodder, equipped with less effective weapons and barely any protective armor. Geonosians were strong creatures despite their pathetic frames. They were considered to be barbaric by more civilized races and viewed horrific gladiatorial combat as entertainment.

PROFILE

HOMEWORLD: GEONOSIS

SPECIES: GEONOSIANS

GENDER: UNDETERMINED

HEIGHT: 1.68 TO 1.78 METERS

WEAPONS: BEAM WEAPON

VEHICLE: NNANTEX-CLASS STARFIGHTER

AFFILIATION: C.I.S.

SKILLS

Thin of frame, but lithe and strong, the warriors of Geonosis were not the most intelligent creatures ever to take arms.

The elite were issued beam weapons capable of cutting through armor with devastating effect.

The Geonosians did not have an army, but instead used droid foundries to create armies or large amounts of droids.

85

STRENGTH

80

SPEED

40

POWER

45

LEADERSHIP

80

MOBILITY

80

LOYALTY

80

SPECIAL ABILITY

90

BONUS SKILL

GEONOSIAN WARRIOR

a single Raider, they were known to retreat in order to amass greater numbers and more confidence.

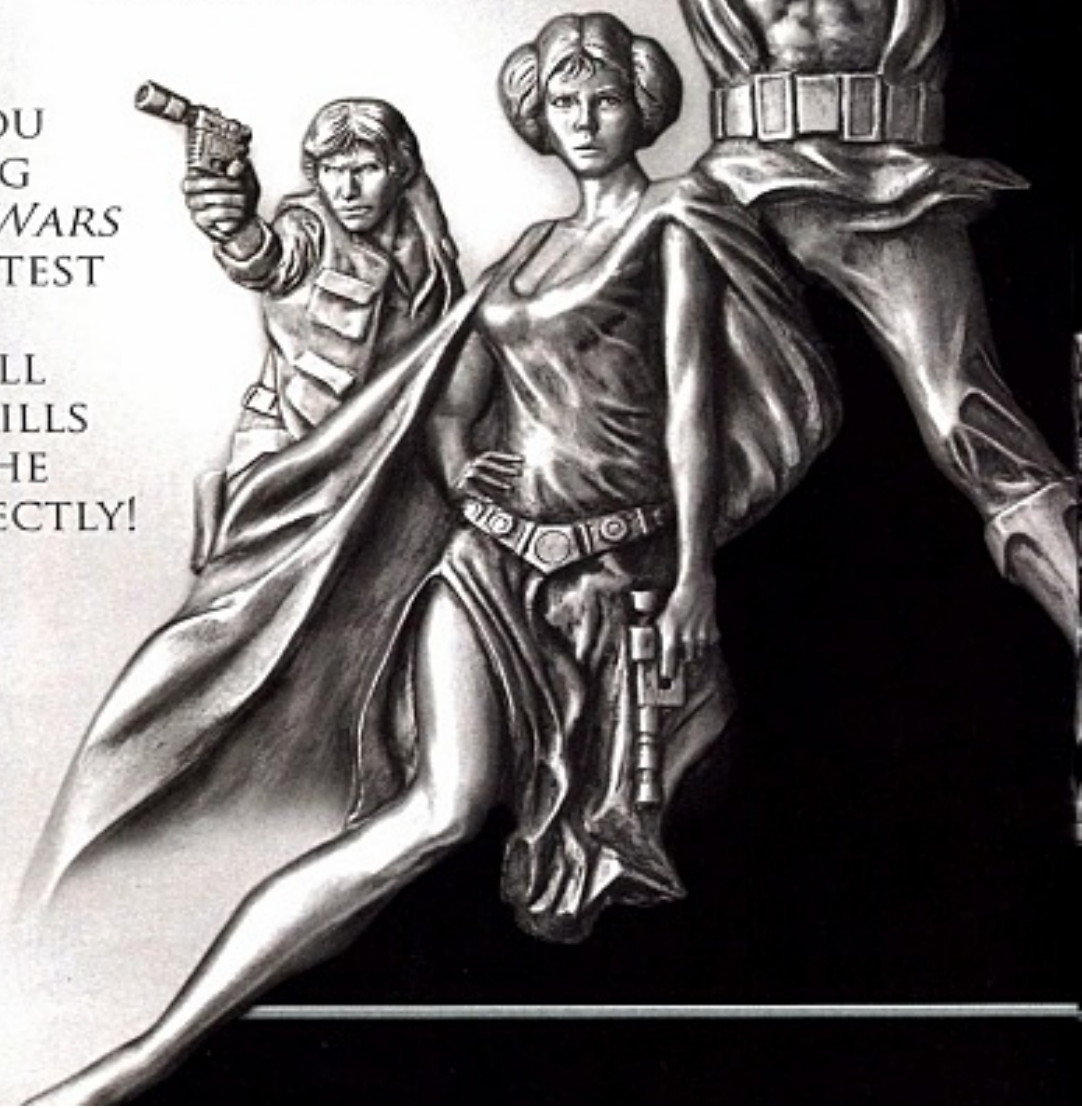
On the face of it, the elite Geonosian warrior had the advantage of the two. Armed and armored, the Geonosian possessed the means and strength to defeat a Tusken Raider, but lacked the intelligence and guile of their opponent.

Whereas the Tusken Raider was more of a creature, although capable of a certain amount of independent thought, the Geonosian was very much dependent on the hive mentality. Viewing brutal executions seems only to have increased the blood lust of this fierce and dangerously unpredictable species. Who will win? Turn to page 82!

JEDI TRAINING

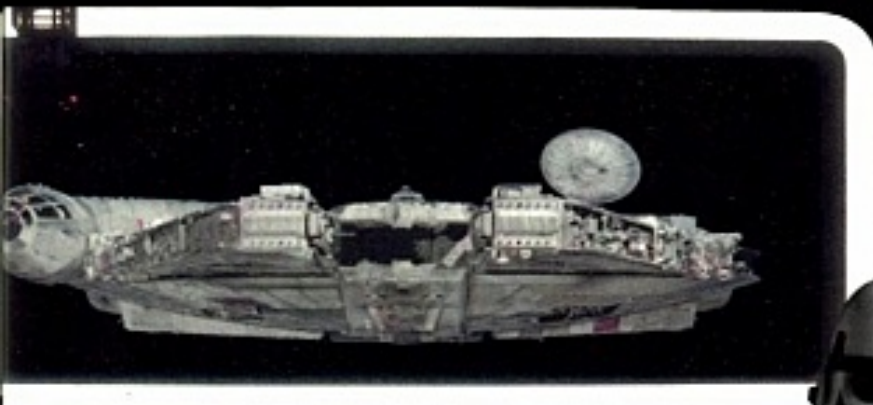
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DO YOU THINK YOU
KNOW EVERYTHING
ABOUT THE *STAR WARS*
SAGA? TAKE OUR TEST
AND FIND OUT!
BE WARNED—YOU'LL
NEED JEDI-LIKE SKILLS
TO ANSWER ALL THE
QUESTIONS CORRECTLY!



SECTION ONE

BEHIND THE SCENES

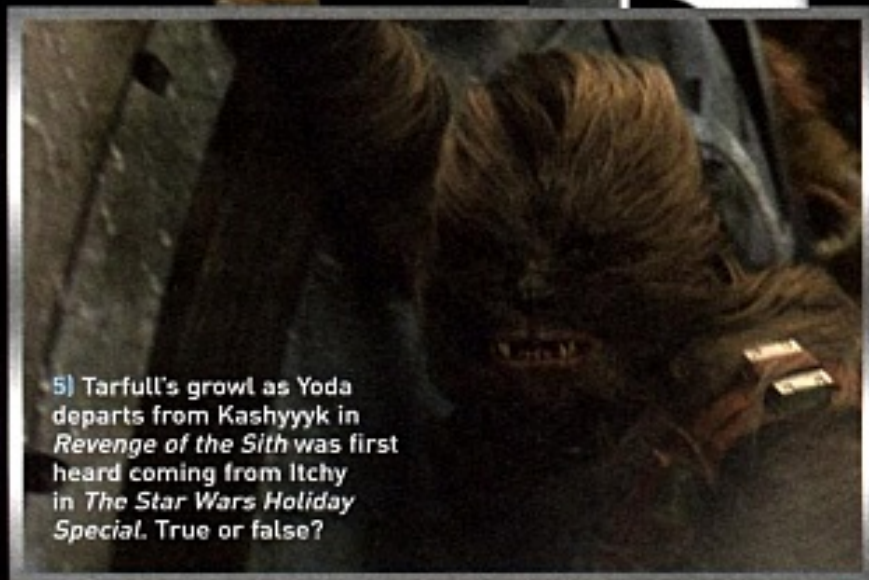


1) The shape of the *Millennium Falcon* (above) was said to be based on a hamburger, but what piece of fruit provided the inspiration for the cockpit?

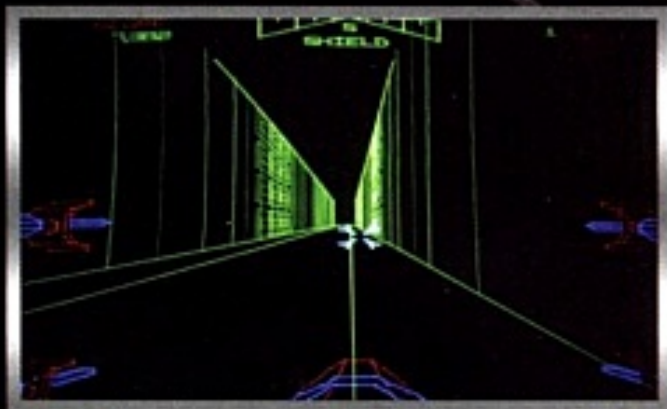
2) Which part of Anthony Daniels' anatomy was hurt when part of his C-3PO costume shattered on the set of *A New Hope*?

3) 42 million what were sold during 1978?

4) On which director was the character of Han Solo based?



5) Tarfull's growl as Yoda departs from Kashyyyk in *Revenge of the Sith* was first heard coming from Itchy in *The Star Wars Holiday Special*. True or false?



6) Brandon Erickson set a world record by playing the original *Star Wars* arcade game (above) on a single credit for how long?

- A) 28 hrs
- B) 46 hrs
- C) 54 hrs

7) Most stormtroopers are left-handed—true or false?



9) What links Greedo (above) to the Hovitos from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*?

8) Which is the shortest of the six live-action *Star Wars* movies?

10) Which major character is the last we hear in *A New Hope*?

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE ►



SECTION TWO

JEDI VS SITH

11) Which major character is never mentioned by name in the original trilogy?

12) Shaak Ti (right) shares her name with a creature called a shaak. On what planet are shaaks commonly found?

13) Which Jedi carried a blissl?

14) In which novel does Obi-Wan Kenobi wrongly describe disabling a tractor beam as "Not a skill I expect to draw on again"?

15) Who did Darth Vader fight and kill on the planet Dantooine?

16) Who is missing from this list: Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader, R2-D2 and C-3PO?



SECTION THREE

READ ALL ABOUT IT

17) Which book had the working titles *Wild Card* and *The Emperor's Hand*?

18) Which author created, and posed for the collectible card game version of *Talon Karrde* (above)?

19) About whom did Han Solo remark, "He was even ugly as a baby!"





SECTION FOUR

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS

- 20] What species was Ree-Yees (above, right)?
- 21] The Gamorrean pilot Voort saBinring was a member of which squadron?
- 22] The Jedi lightsaber form, Soresu, has an alternative name derived from a creature. What is it called?
- 23] Plif (below) was a member of which species?



SECTION FIVE

PLACES AND SPACES

- 24] What was Mount Dagger on Dagobah renamed as?
- 25] Due to its high number of shipwrecks, which moon has been compared to a "desert island" in space?
- 26] Which fearsome creature lives mainly on Dathomir?

SECTION SIX

COMPLETE THESE QUOTES:

27] "If the Rebels have obtained a complete technical readout of this station, it is possible, however unlikely, that they..."

General Cassio Tagge, *Star Wars: A New Hope*

28] "But he still has much to learn, Master. His abilities have made him ..."

Obi-Wan Kenobi, *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones*

29] "If Fate is looking for something to humble Skywalker..."

Count Dooku, *Yoda: Dark Rendezvous*

30] "The historical records will claim that the Rebel Alliance was born on Corellia. That is a documented fact. But the truth is this. The Rebel Alliance was born in the Scarl system aboard..."

PROXY, *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed* comic



ANSWERS

BEHIND THE SCENES 1) An olive 2) Feet 3) 42 million Star Wars action figures 4) Francis Ford Coppola 5) Truel 6) C-56 hours 7) True 8) Greedo's language was taken from the same dialect as the Huttish language 9) A New Hope 10) Chewbacca. JEDI VS SITH 11) Palpatine 12) Naboo 13) Roda 14) Labrynth of Elys 15) A clone of himself (Galaxy of Fear) 16) Obi-Wan Kenobi (they are the only characters who appear in all six movies). READ ALL ABOUT IT 17] *Heir to the Empire* 18] Timothy Zahn 19] Palpatine. ALIEN ENCOUNTERS 20] Grand 21] Wrath Squadron 22] The Way of the Mynocks 23] Hoojbs. PLACES AND SPACES 24] Mount Yoda 25] Moon of Endor 26] Rancor. SPACES 26] Mount Yoda 25] Moon of Endor 26] Rancor. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUOTES, 27] "...might find a weakness, and exploit it." 28] "...well, arrogant." 29] "...I confess myself willing to volunteer." 30] "...Darth Vader's personal starship, the Executor."



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BOOKS

DEATH TROOPERS BRINGS COLD TERROR TO A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY! WORDS: DAN WALLACE

NIGHTMARE FUEL!

From Darth Vader to Darth Maul and every rancor in between, *Star Wars* has always pushed our fear buttons. But it has never plunged fully into the horror genre until now. On October 13—just in time for Halloween—Del Rey releases *Death Troopers*. Get ready to leave the bedroom light on!

The sinister proceedings begin aboard the Imperial prison barge *Purge*, which is steaming toward a remote penitentiary planet with a hold full of convicts and a watchful knot of hardened guards. When the *Purge* happens upon a derelict *Star Destroyer* drifting near the edge of settled space, its inhabitants soon learn why the warship won't answer their hails.

"There's a real, tangible sense of evil and cruelty that comes along with small men in power."

An unspeakable contagion rips through the vessel, leaving 99 percent of its passengers stone dead—and in short order, turning them into something much, much worse.

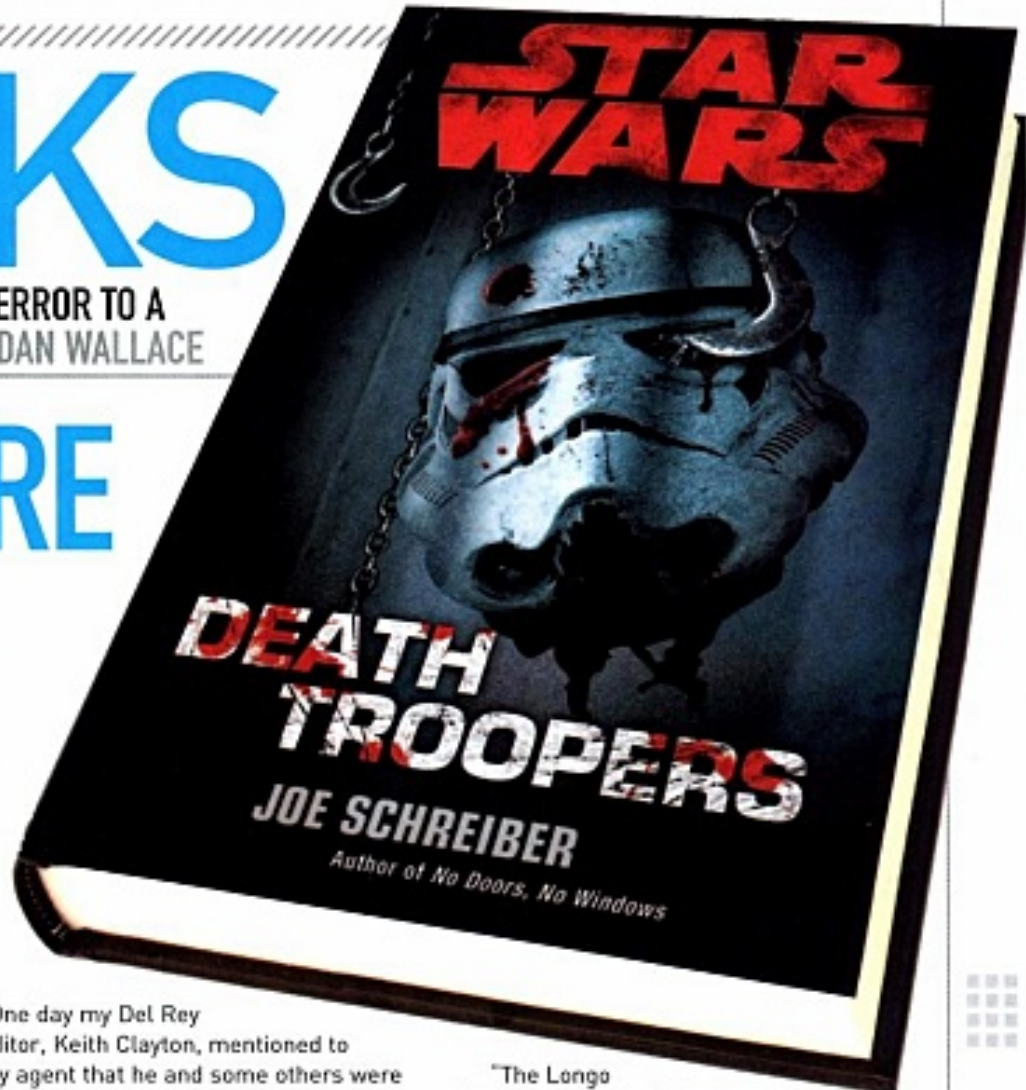
"One day my Del Rey editor, Keith Clayton, mentioned to my agent that he and some others were kicking around ideas for a *Star Wars* horror novel," says writer Joe Schreiber, author of the pulse-pounders *Chasing the Dead* and *Eat the Dark*. "It was just one of those light bulb moments when you say, 'how did we not think of this before?' Keith said, 'I've got the perfect guy for this.' Needless to say, I was thrilled to prove them right."

Schreiber came up with the storyline, putting key characters into play such as the sympathetic Longo brothers, a well-intentioned medic, and a sadistic Imperial guard.

"The Longo brothers tie directly into my idea of fear and familiarity going hand in hand, the uncanny as something you recognize turned inside out," says Schreiber. "What's more familiar than family? As far as the role of Jareth Sartoris, captain of the guard, there's a real, tangible sense of evil and cruelty that comes along with small men in power. The Empire would be full of these tin-plate tyrants."

Schreiber was in grade school during the release of the first *Star Wars* movie, and says it influenced him in a thousand ways. "I had nightmares of Darth Vader making his way down that first blaster smoke-filled walkway," he says. "I bought the Kenner action figures and I played every conceivable role in the playground. In many ways it was my first introduction to the idea that there was more going on than the action before your eyes, that this was just part of a larger story."

"I think one of the reasons why the phenomena of *Star Wars* continues to engage generation after generation is because people recognize familiar traces of everyday life amid *Star Wars'* unapologetically fantastic background."



FORTHCOMING STAR WARS BOOK RELEASES

September 2009
**A New Hope:
The Life of Luke
Skywalker**
by Ryder Windham

October 2009
**The Clone Wars:
Visual Guide
Ultimate Battles**
by Jason Fry

October 2009
**Star Wars: The
Complete Vader**
by Pete Vilmur and
Ryder Windham

BOOKS CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



WORLDS OF WONDER!

ANIMATED ILLUSTRATIONS FILL *THE ART OF THE CLONE WARS*. WORDS: DAN WALLACE



Star Wars: *The Clone Wars* is one of the most successful animated shows on television, and as it approaches its second season Chronicle Books has the perfect companion for Anakin fans and animation buffs alike. *The Art of The Clone Wars* is a 288-page hardcover with more than 400 images ranging from pencil sketches, concept paintings, alternate and unused character and vehicle designs, storyboards, environmental studies, lighting concepts, and final frames.

The book, written by Frank Parisi and Gary Schepke with an introduction by series supervising director Dave Filoni and a foreword by George Lucas, includes interviews with over two dozen creators including designers, writers, directors, animators, editors, sound designers, and voice actors, and traces the series development from the earliest kernel of an idea to the finished show.

"One of my favorite books is *Please Kill Me: The Unauthorized Oral History of Punk Rock* by Legs McNeil," says Parisi. "Inspired by that, Gary and I worked hard to give the book as much of an oral

BOOKS CONTINUED

Mos Eisley as a singles bar on a Saturday night, for example, or the feeling of dead-end hopelessness that Luke feels thinking he's going to be stuck working on his uncle's farm all his life."

This sensation of close reality becomes a huge asset when you're writing a story dripping with unease,

the next logical extension of our very real human dreads," says Schreiber, whose books have included serial killers and psychotic kidnappers. "My work, both supernatural and otherwise, stems from communal phobic pressure points that we all share. Unfamiliar, uncontrollable elements strip away all the normal daily reassurances we take for granted. We may be dealing with

"I like horror because it seems like the next logical extension of our very real human dreads."

for no emotion has a closer connection to the primal, reptilian center of the human brain than raw fear.

"I like horror because it seems like

demons and vampires, but they prey on the same nerve endings that activate when we wake up in the middle of the night to a noise in the living room." ☞





testimony feel as possible by letting the creative talent tell their stories, offering readers an "in the trenches" view of what it takes to produce a show of this size and magnitude."

Readers will enjoy the book's 10-page sneak peek of *Clone Wars* Season Two, but true fans may want to consider the bonus-laden Limited Edition of *The Art of the Clone Wars*. This impressive



Anaï Ventress

ANAI VENTRESS is a character who appears in the Clone Wars. She is a former Jedi who turned to the dark side. She is a skilled warrior and a powerful Force user. She is the daughter of the Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn and the former Jedi Padawan Shmi Skywalker.



Episode 2:
Rising Malevolence
Episode 3:
Shadow of Malevolence
Episode 4:
Destroy Malevolence



volume comes in a slipcase featuring an exclusive new cover painted by designer Russell Chong in a style that pays homage to Ralph McQuarrie, and contains three exclusive behind-the-scenes gatefolds and eight full-sized

pieces of exclusive *Clone Wars* art by the series designers in a vellum envelope.

"The Limited Edition is gorgeous, and was conceived and designed as a love letter to *Clone Wars* fans," says Parisi. 📖

COMICS

STAR WARS LEGACY REVEALS THE FUTURE FATE OF THE MANDALORIANS. WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE

ROGUE BOUNTY!

The Mandalorian warriors—those proud wearers of the unforgettable battle armor donned by Boba Fett—have been one of the most popular *Star Wars* subgroups among fans. The daring starfighter jockeys of Rogue Squadron have a legion of admirers as well. Issue #41 of *Star Wars Legacy* pits the groups against one another, and in the course of the adventure uncovers all-new information on the state of the galaxy in a tale set more than 130 years after the movies.

The story begins with the Galactic Alliance Remnant continuing to fight the good fight against the revived Sith Empire. The pilots of the Galactic Alliance's Rogue Squadron are charged with insuring the safety of millions of Mon Calamari refugees following Darth Krayt's massacre of the Mon Cal citizenry (seen vividly in issues 32 and 33). If the mass relocation of survivors doesn't succeed, it could very well mean the extermination of the species.

Among the Rogues responsible for protecting the evacuees is Hondo Carr, an ex-stormtrooper who—as we learn in this issue—is also an ex-Mandalorian. “Hondo is the center of the issue, alongside Rogue Squadron and more of the Galactic Alliance fleet,” says *Legacy* writer John Ostrander. “We’ll learn how and why Hondo left the Mandos, and why one particular Mandalorian is hunting him for a very personal reason. Fair warning: not all the Rogues will return alive from this mission.”

Longtime *Star Wars* fans will appreciate *Legacy*'s return to the moons of Da Soocha, an environment last seen in 1992's *Dark Empire* where it was used to house the Mon Cal survivors of the Emperor's World Devastator attack as well as provide a staging area for a beleaguered New Republic.

But the issue's real treat is the spilling of a much-debated secret: namely, just what have the Mandalorians been up to all this time?





Ostrander provides a brief history lesson on the group that has been absent from *Legacy's* pages until now. "They were hired by one side during the first year of the Sith-Imperial War and assigned to hold the planet Botajef until relief arrived. Let's just say the results have accounted for why the Mandalorians haven't been seen much in *Legacy*. Treachery was involved."

Issue 41 will shed more light on this back story and explain how Hondo Carr is mixed up in it. But even in the galaxy of *Legacy*—

"THEY'RE A WARRIOR SOCIETY WITH THEIR OWN CODE AND SENSE OF HONOR, AND THEIR OWN LANGUAGE. AND THEY LOOK PRETTY COOL."

which has been radically reshaped by time and war—the Mandalorians remain compelling figures.

"The initial reason for the [Mandalorian] appeal, I think, is how cool Boba Fett looked and acted in the movies," says Ostrander. Since then, the Mandalorians have been fleshed out in sources from the 1980s Marvel comics to the ongoing *Knights of the Old Republic* series. Karen Traviss, writer of Mando-centric bestsellers including *Bloodlines* and *Triple Zero*, has added reams of lore to the Mandalorian society, including the creation of an in-universe language.

"I'm going to get killed by some folks for making this comparison, but they're sort of like the Klingons in *Star Trek*," says Ostrander. "They're a warrior society with their own code and sense of honor, and their own language. And they look pretty cool: made to order to become a cult among some sci-fi fans. And if I don't do this issue right, some of them will come gunning for me!" 🤖



INTO THE CRUCIBLE

ZAYNE CARRICK'S IN OVER HIS HEAD IN *KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC'S* "DESTROYER"

Fans of *Knights of the Old Republic* realize that Zayne Carrick isn't known for sober, measured decisions. The renegade Padawan is more likely to leap into situations head-first, counting on luck or the Force to somehow see him through. Usually, it works.

But in "Destruction," issue 45 of the ongoing series, Zayne's good fortune might finally expire. Believing that he can infiltrate the Crucible—the slaving cabal that once claimed his companion Jarael as a member—he gambles that one bold gesture will be enough to prove himself to Jarael and outshine his rival, Malak.

"After outsmarting Golliard [the Republic Navy deserter-turned-slaver who kidnapped Jarael as a child], Zayne underestimates the Crucible," explains writer John Jackson Miller. "He figures they'll be easy to deal with using his normal methods of subterfuge. He's wrong—very wrong."

One of the personalities that Zayne encounters is Chantique—a contemporary of Jarael's from the same slaving background. "Chantique is not Jarael's twin, but they've walked the same path in their lives and turned out quite differently," says Miller. "Chantique is angry, manipulative, and sadistic—all assets for someone in the Crucible. They're things that Jarael could never really be, which is part of why she fled. We will find that the roots of Chantique's hatred go far deeper than even Jarael imagines. She's not just interested in destroying Jarael, but everyone around her—beginning with Zayne and his relationship with her."

Readers may come to the conclusion that "Destroyer" is a fitting name for

this storyarc after watching these events play out. The ultimate impact on Zayne and Jarael's relationship is devastating. "Some relationships can handle dark truths when they're revealed, and some can't," says Miller. "Zayne sees what the Crucible is like and can't understand how Jarael could have been part of that world. This, for Zayne, is as much a test of his maturity as any heroic act might be."

None of this is made any easier for Miller due to the fact that many of *Knights of the Old Republic's* readers have been begging for a Zayne/Jarael romance—a "daily" request according to Miller. "But we have to remember that Zayne is still a fairly young guy, 19, and he's trying to figure out relationships in general," he points out. "Jarael is a pretty complicated woman from a completely different world. You can bridge those differences, but it's not automatic." 🤖



INCOMING

INSIDER PREVIEWS THE LATEST STAR WARS GEAR
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS! WORDS: CHRIS SPITALE

MUST
HAVE!

HASBRO

Hasbro announced two more Build-A-Droid action-figure waves due out this fall. The first wave includes Commander Cody with Obi-Wan's lightsaber and a hologram of Darth Sidious; a varactyl wrangler, as found on the sinkhole planet Utapau; Jedi Master Plo Koon, armed with his lightsaber and a double-bladed lightsaber gauntlet; Zabrak Jedi Knight Agen Kolar, as seen in the arena battle from *Attack of the Clones*; and a never-before-released McQuarrie concept IG-88, famously shown in *The Art of The Empire Strikes Back*. Collect all five figures and assemble war droid YVH 1, better known as the Yuuzhan Vong Hunter.

The second wave is centered around *The Empire Strikes Back* and includes a newly-sculpted X-wing pilot Luke Skywalker, complete with removable helmet and grappling gun; an AT-AT Commander, whose removable helmet reveals a familiar clone face beneath; Gand bounty hunter Zuckuss; a new Bespin security guard to flank your Baron Administrator; and, for the first-time ever, Willow Hood, who was seen briefly in the evacuation scene on Cloud City. Collect all five and assemble assassin droid HK-50!



HASBRO EXCLUSIVES!

REPUBLIC GUNSHIP - Toys 'R Us ▶

As seen in the Rylath arc of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, the Republic gunship Crumb Bomber hits store shelves this fall. This vehicle is available exclusively at Toys 'R Us.



EXCLUSIVE TO
TOYS 'R US

**MUST
HAVE!**

◀ OCTUPTARRA DROID - Wal-Mart

As seen during the Battle of Christophsis, the spider-like Octuptarra droid is a Wal-Mart exclusive available this fall.



EXCLUSIVE TO
WAL-MART

GEONOSIS ARENA PACKS - Target ▼

Depicting the Battle of Geonosis from *Attack of the Clones*, these new action figure two-packs are available exclusively at Target. There are six sets in total: Jedi Knight Kit Fisto vs. a Geonosian warrior, amphibian Jedi Coleman Trebor vs. bounty hunter Jango Fett, Yoda (with a fabric Jedi robe) vs. a destroyer droid, human Jedi Roth-Del Masona vs. a super battle droid, Jedi Knight Joclad Darva vs. a battle droid, and Jedi Master Mace Windu vs. a battle droid commander.



EXCLUSIVE TO
TARGET

INCOMING continues next page



ASK LOBOT



AS RELATED TO LELAND Y. CHEE

What was Kitster's fate? Is he alive at the time of the Galactic Civil War?

William Piper, by email

Kitster Chanchani Banai was alive and well during the Galactic Civil War and beyond. He even managed to make an appearance in the novel *Tatooine Ghost*, set eight years after the events of *Star Wars: A New Hope*. In that story, we learned that Kitster was able to free himself from slavery only to later fall upon tough times. He was later rescued from Tusken Raiders by Han Solo and Princess Leia who, as we all know, is the daughter of his childhood friend. Kitster played a crucial role in Leia's learning more about Anakin's early life.

Why do we know so little about Yoda's species? Is it under directive from George Lucas?

Nick Clark, by email

Yes, George Lucas often gives Lucas Licensing directives to keep things mysterious, and Yoda's backstory is one of those mysteries, despite numerous requests by *Star Wars* authors to explore this. *The New Essential Guide to Alien Species* has fun with this by listing the entry for the species simply as "Yoda's species." We do know that Yoda is not the only representative of his species since Yaddle from *The Phantom Menace* and Vandar Tokare from *Knights of the Old Republic* are both of this species. Should the detailed backstory of Yoda's species ever be explored, it would have to come from Lucas himself.

INCOMING continues....

GENTLE GIANT

BATTLE DROID MINI BUST ►

Battle droids make up the backbone of the Trade Federation Droid Army and were designed to defeat their enemies through sheer numbers. Film accurate and painted to perfection, this limited edition 1:6 scale mini bust retails for \$59.99.



◀ OOLA MINI BUST

Oola, the exotic Twi'lek dancer and slave to Jabba the Hutt, was the star attraction in Jabba's court. However, she refused to submit to Jabba's will and met with a grisly death at the hands of the monstrous rancor. Accurately detailed with real fabric fish net, this limited edition 1:6th scale mini bust retails for \$59.99.



DARTH TALON MINI BUST ►

Darth Talon, a female Twi'lek Sith Lord popularized in the *Star Wars: Legacy* comics series, is a fan favorite reminiscent of the infamous Darth Maul. This beautifully crafted mini bust measures 6.5 inches in height and is available this fall for \$59.99.

All mini busts are individually numbered with a matching certificate of authenticity.





STAR WARS CHESS SET ▲

Jedi Knight or Imperial might? You decide in this classic game of strategy and skill! You can command the Empire's naval fleet or fight back with the Rebel Alliance in this high quality chess set from Gentle Giant Studios. Representing all of the key characters in the classic *Star Wars* universe, this chess set comes with 32 collectible pewter figures in luxurious silver and gold finishes. The game board itself features a glass-etched top with Death Star imagery, and the board casing is constructed of durable MDF and polyresin. Hidden slide-out drawers can store all game pieces. Available fall 2009, the board measures 16" X 16" and the set retails for \$600.

4-LOM MINI BUST ►

Completing Gentle Giant's bounty hunter series is the long-awaited droid 4-LOM, from *The Empire Strikes Back*. Digitally scanned, modeled and sculpted by the artisans at Gentle Giant, this accurate recreation of the villainous bounty hunter stands 6.5 inches tall, is made of high quality polystone and comes ready to display. It will sell for around \$45.



◀ SNOWTROOPER MINI BUST

Imperial snowtroopers, also known as cold assault stormtroopers, were specifically trained to operate in arctic climates, most notably during *The Empire Strikes Back*'s Battle of Hoth, where the masked troops invaded the Rebellion's secret Echo Base. This super detailed Gentle Giant mini bust measures in at over 6.5 inches, retails for \$59.99, and is finely detailed from the utility belt and back pack to the blaster rifle and film-accurate helmet and armor.

MUST HAVE!

ASK LOBOT



Is the Sullustan seen in the *Return of a Jedi* briefing room scene Nien Nunb?

Anonymous

Official *Star Wars* continuity considers this character to be Nien Nunb wearing the life support pack of a B-wing pilot. We again see Nien Nunb wearing the life support pack at the Ewok celebration. Apparently, when Nien Nunb is not copiloting the *Millennium Falcon*, he flies B-wings (not to be confused with Ten Numb clad in white who also flies B-wings.)

INCOMING continues next page



FUNKO

Bounty hunter Boba Fett and Jedi Master Yoda follow in the super-deformed footsteps of Funko's first Star Wars computer sitter, Darth Vader. Made of PVC vinyl and retailing for \$9.99, each bobble sitter is 4.5 inches tall and showcases Funko's trademark super-deformed stylings. Available now!



ASK LOBOT

Anakin had a little help.



In *The Phantom Menace*, how did Anakin manage to fly through the droid control ship's shields?

Anonymous

We could say that the entrances to the hangar arms aren't covered by the deflector shields, but that would be too easy, not to mention tactically stupid on the part of the Trade Federation. Instead, the events play out as follows. Bravo Squadron targets the droid control ship's deflector shield generators, but the primary shield generators prove too strong and they are unable to bring down the shield to complete their attack on the ship's central bridge. However, as depicted in the videogame *Battle for Naboo*, Lt. Gavyn Sykes (Bravo Six) manages to take out the deflector shield and tractor beams protecting the entrance of the hangar arm which Anakin flies through to reach the droid control ship's main reactor.

MUST HAVE!



SIDESHOW

Imperial Shock Trooper 12-inch Figure

The Imperial shock trooper joins Sideshow's army of fully articulated 12-inch figures. This red-marked soldier of the Grand Army of the Republic includes fully detailed armor set with helmet, carbine blaster, and long rifle. Retailing for \$89.99, the shock trooper ships fourth quarter 2009. Sideshow's exclusive version contains a unique 12-inch figure display base. 🍌

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STAR RETRO WARS

LUKE SKYWALKER'S TRANSPORTATION OF CHOICE HAS FLOWN OFF THE SHELVES AND INTO FANS' COLLECTIONS!

WORDS & PICTURES: GUS LOPEZ



X-WINGNUTS!

ATTACK POSITION!

The X-wing fighter has a special place among *Star Wars* fans—it was the ship of choice of the saga's hero, Luke Skywalker, and also was piloted by the other heroes of the Rebellion: Red Leader, Biggs, Porkins, and Wedge. X-wings appear in all of the battles of the original trilogy, and have been converted into over 1,000 different *Star Wars* collectibles since 1977. There also have been Rogue Squadron comics, novels, and videogames.

The classic X-wing toy was the one made by Kenner for the small-scale action figure line that was launched in 1978. Designed to accommodate the three and three-quarter inch Luke Skywalker action figure, this toy had a number of features including wings that locked into attack position, retractable landing gear, a light-up nose, and a buzzing "laser" sound. Outside the U.S. it was sold by Kenner affiliates all over the world including Meccano in France, Kenner Canada, Harbert in Italy, and Palitoy in the U.K. The toy was updated after the release of *The Empire Strikes Back* with battle damage stickers and new colors to capture the wear and tear of Luke's adventures. This vehicle was an instant hit and proved to be one of the top selling toys of the 1970s.

Kenner also released a die-cast metal version of the X-wing fighter in 1978. Although not as feature-rich as the action figure-scale counterpart, it did have locking wings and a movable cockpit canopy. Curiously, both of Kenner's X-wing toys from this era had the markings for Red 3—Biggs Darklighter's ship—not Luke's Red 5 X-wing. The die-cast X-wing was also available worldwide through Kenner affiliates in Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, and the U.K.

LAUNCHING ONTO LUNCHBOX

The X-wing fighter has prominent placement on one of the greatest *Star Wars* collectibles of all time—the original *Star Wars* metal lunch box by King Seeley Thermos. The X-wing gets top billing across the main face of the box, just like the photo Luke puts on his lunch box.





X-WINGS FLY EAST

In Japan, Takara took X-wing toys to a whole new level. In addition to the die-cast vehicle produced by Kenner, there were additional X-wing toys available only in Japan. For instance, Takara had a die-cast X-wing of its own scale and design with a uniquely styled photo box, removable R2-D2, and launchable wing tips. Takara also created a transforming X-wing, tapping into a sci-fi genre that was already popular in Japan by the late 1970s but was not yet known to the rest of the world. Takara rounded out the line-up with an inflatable X-wing fighter that looked more like a torpedo than the ship seen on screen. The toy packaging shows a kid preparing to throw this large toy into the air (or at the neighbor's cat!)



PORKINS' FAVORITE TIE-IN!

X-wings appear in a wide range of Star Wars food promotions. General Mills offered a cereal premium in the late 1970s of various small Star Wars vehicle hang-gliders available in boxes of Trix and Lucky Charms, including Biggs' Red 3 X-wing. These cardboard cut-out vehicles could be folded into shape from the die-cut card.

In Australia, the Streets ice cream promotion for *A New Hope* had an X-wing across the cover of the ice cream box with a cut-out X-wing as one of the premiums.

RETRO continues next page



X-WINGS FOR JUNIOR PILOTS

Collectors are not as likely to know about X-wing toy concepts that were considered but never released to market. At various times, Kenner explored the idea of a *Star Wars* pre-school line and got as far as producing a single hand-made prototype of the pre-school X-wing with spots for Luke and R2-D2. Although the toy never reached retail, this brilliantly styled concept could be considered an early predecessor of the popular Galactic Heroes line.

Parker Brothers also had a toy concept based on the X-wing for *Return of the Jedi*—a handheld electronic game that was a cross between the targeting computer on Luke's X-wing and his macrobinoculars. This standalone game was to be played with controls on the console while

looking through the viewfinder and was fairly advanced for games of that era.

A prototype of the toy and proposed packaging are shown to the left.

X-COINS!

The X-wing also found its way onto *Star Wars* collectible coins. The most widely known is the Luke X-wing fighter coin from Kenner's Power of the Force series with the vehicle covering half the face of the coin. There also is a small-scale version of the coin that served as a concept for the Power of the Force line before the final decision was made to go with the larger scale. Just Toys created a weighty X-wing coin as one of the three vehicle coins bundled with Bend Ems figures in the early 1990s. There's even an unlicensed Mardi Gras X-wing coin from 1982 that was minted during the height of the original trilogy's popularity. 🍷



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BOUNTY HUNTERS

BOUNTY
WINNER!

TALKING TO TOM!

About a week before my wife and I were planning to go to the Philly Wizard World Convention the new issue of *Star Wars Insider* came out. I bought my copy that Friday before we left and was so excited to see the article on Tom Kane that I not only read it while waiting in line, but I had my copy signed. He was really amused to be signing my magazine and I had great fun meeting him.

David Lambiase, by email

Awesome photo David! For capturing the Jedi Master Yoda, reward you will with a prize this issue!

BOUNTY
WINNER!

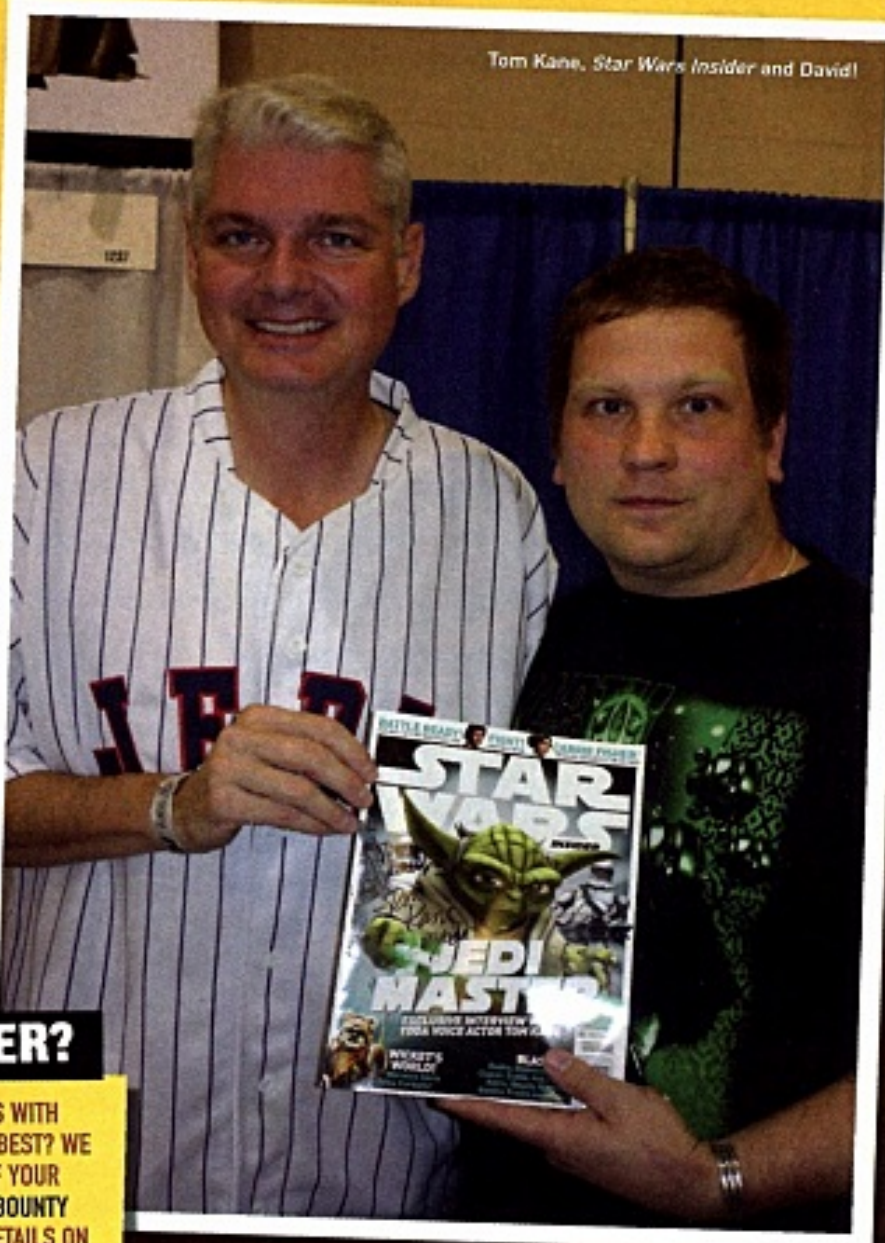
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Tom Kane, *Star Wars Insider* and David!

WE ALSO HEARD
FROM THE
FOLLOWING
BOUNTY HUNTERS...



KURTZ CAPTURED!

I have met many *Star Wars* actors, actresses, artists, and behind the scenes celebrities over the years. It is always exciting to meet my heroes such as Gary Kurtz who helped make my favorite *Star Wars* films!

Joseph Depew, California, U.S.A.



MAGICAL AURRA!

I've been a *Star Wars* collector and fan since 1977. I'm a man of normal means, but I do spend some on my favorite hobby! I've put up a huge public display annually for the last five years at the Westminster Mall in Denver. I've been lucky enough to meet many stars including Michonne Kaemmerling who played Aurra Sing in *Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace*!

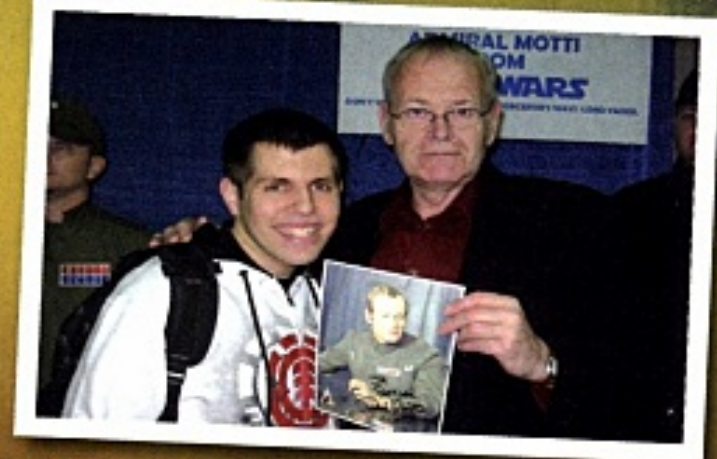
Don Frisque, Colorado, U.S.A.



IN A FIX WITH FIXER

My buddy Lou and I were able to hunt down Anthony Forrest who played Fixer and the stormtrooper tricked by Obi-Wan in *A New Hope* at Wizard World Chicago in 2007. We both play *Star Wars* Miniatures and got autographs on our sandtrooper cards. We chatted with him about our game and he really seemed to enjoy it. For me it was just sweet to meet and talk with him. To know what a great guy he is makes the Jedi mind trick scene even more special to me.

Jake Schuler, by email



CHOKED TO MEET YOU

I had the pleasure of meeting Richard LeParmentier who played Admiral Motti in *A New Hope* at the 2007 Steel City Con held in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. He was very kind to me and seemed to be having a good time at the show. I had a fantastic time at the convention; being able to chat with the actor who played one of my favorite *Star Wars* characters made it a moment I won't forget.

Jeff Boarts, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.



VOL.
43

BANTHA TRACKS

BY THE FANS.
FOR THE FANS.



HOT OFF THE ARMOR PRESS

This edition of *Bantha Tracks* features fans in their communities, having a great time together, inspiring awe in others, and celebrating the spectacular *Star Wars* universe.

This editorial honors one group of fans who did all of the above, but created the costumes on short notice, upon request, and who were the first to venture where no *Star Wars* fan had gone before.

Not too many weeks before the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) in Los Angeles this past June, I contacted members of the 501st's Southern California Garrison and the Rebel Legion to see if they might want to take part, in costume, at a special *Star Wars* announcement during the Electronic Arts press event at the show. A small problem: the costumes did not yet exist.

Never ones to shy away from performing when it's really show time, Kenneth Scott Rogers and Lesley Farquhar, CO and XO of the Garrison, and Matt Hoffman and Donna Keeley of the Rebel Legion, sprang into action, recruiting their fellow costumers for what was a top secret project: using just a few concept reference illustrations to create new Sith and Jedi costumes of characters from the

upcoming MMORPG from LucasArts and Bioware, *Star Wars: The Old Republic*. These were not ordinary costumes. Many of the Jedi, for example, had extensive armor that would have to be hand-molded and shaped.

It's hard to find adequate words to thank these dedicated and talented individuals who shone at E3. So if you see them and their fantastic costumes, tell them they rock!

Get In Tracks!
Mary Franklin

Editor, *Bantha Tracks*

BELOW: To help work go faster, the groups built costumes together at armor parties.



THANK YOU TO:

Armored Jedi: Curtis Preston, Mike Bender, Ian Martin, Shawn Crosby, Sonya Hall, Kari Souza, Scott Allen, Daniel Cano, Felix Welliver, Kevin Weir, Devon Lines, Tim McCoy, Trisha DeWitt

Soft Jedi: Victor Jimenez, Donna Keeley
Concept Sith: Lawrence Green, Scott Rogers, Lex Quijano, Sean Thompson, Lesley Farquhar

Armored Sith: Dini McMurry, Eddie Dennis, Ian Lindsay, Jordan Plein

Wranglers: Dan Wolsey, Edgar Gallego, Anastasia Hunter (A special thanks to Anastasia, who went above and beyond her call of duty with many expert seamstress adjustments last minute, back stage.)



GET IN TRACKS!



ON LOCATION

THANKS TO READERS FOR THESE REPORTS ON FANS WHO ARE CELEBRATING *STAR WARS* FROM IRELAND TO PUERTO RICO, AND MEXICO TO NEW ORLEANS!



ABOVE: On stage, Jedi and Sith wait to ignite their lightsabers for the grand finale.



ABOVE: Shawn Crosby works on his armored Jedi costume.



ABOVE: The Pawtucket Red Sox, an affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, played to a full ballpark at McCoy Stadium on May 3 for the club's first ever Star Wars Day. The New England Garrison of the 501st Legion, and the Kamino and Alderaan Rebel Legion groups, helped entertain the crowds and posed for pictures.

"Lines wrapped around the concourse and outside of the arena as attendees took photos with their favorite characters," reports Adam Scott, public relations officer for the New England Garrison.

The group also offered photos with a life-sized droid and landspeeder. During the pre-game, Darth Vader (Bob Gouveia) strode to the pitcher's mound and threw the first pitch across home plate. Thanks to Adam Scott.



CENTER AND ABOVE: The Jedi and Sith from *The Old Republic*, just before showtime in Los Angeles.





ON LOCATION CONTINUES....



LEFT: Gerald Home, the performer who portrayed Tassek in *Return of the Jedi*, poses with two Twi'lek friends at Invasion Belfast. Special Thanks to Daryl Tebbutt

RIGHT AND BELOW: Invasion Belfast, held at the Odyssey entertainment complex, attracted thousands of people for a weekend of stormtroopers, clones, Jedi, bounty hunters, droids, Twi'leks, and Tusken, all celebrating *Star Wars* in Ireland. The costuming club Knights of the Empire provided the costumes and a lot of the fun, with photo opportunities and a fully working R2-D2.



ABOVE AND BELOW: On March 14, 60 members of the 501st's Mountain Garrison, Rebel Legion, and the Rocky Mountain Fan Force marched in Denver's 47th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, entertaining an estimated 100,000 spectators. In addition to their most impressive contingent of costumed marchers, the fan groups paraded with a 12-passenger landspeeder, a speeder bike fashioned by members of the group, and a replica X-wing starfighter.

"It was great to get so many fans together to make our entry one of the best ones in the parade," says Rocky Mountain Fan Force representative Jonathan Thornton. "Hearing the cheers of the crowd and seeing the wonder in the kids' eyes made the group's hard work worth it."

Wings Over the Rockies Museum, which houses the X-wing, sponsored the parade entry. Thanks to Melody Deel.



BANTHA TRACKS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any original art, envelope art, comics, illustrations, news, stories, meeting information, or any materials voluntarily submitted become the property of *Bantha Tracks*. All images should be good enough quality for print (i.e. non-pixelated at 300dpi screen resolution). Ideal file size approx 1MB per image. No compensation will be given for voluntary submissions, and there is no guarantee of publication. Submissions will not be returned.

Each submission must include the creator's name, age, contact information, date the work was created, and a statement that the work is original, created by the person submitting it, and that the person is a member of the official *Star Wars* Fan Club. Send your electronic files to banthatracks@starwars.com, or send your snail mail to *Bantha Tracks*, c/o Mary Franklin, P.O. Box 29901, San Francisco, CA 94129

GET IN TRACKS!



ABOVE: Jorge L. De Jesus, a member of the Puerto Rico Star Wars Fan Club, stood out in his Vos Clan Jedi costume at the release of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars—A Galaxy Divided* at Best Buy in Hato Rey.

"The people, especially the young ones, had a blast with the characters," writes De Jesus. "May the Force be with all *Bantha Tracks* readers!"



ABOVE AND RIGHT: "All of the Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans are a lot of fun," writes Paul Spana. "But you should have heard the crowd when the 501st went by. A lot of people ran down the block to take more pictures of the costumes."



BELOW AND LEFT: U.S. members of the 501st Legion recently took a cruise together, meeting members of the Mexican Garrison in Cozumel, one of the stops along the way.

"They had a great time," writes photographer Karen Louie, "especially when they were allowed to wear their costumes on board."



Photos by Karen Louie



ABOVE: J'aine Dobles was a spectator at the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade, and says he was pleasantly surprised when the 501st Legion troopers came marching down the street. "Everyone looked great and authentic!" he says.



ABOVE AND BELOW: "Star Wars fans are the greatest... *Star Wars* costumes are the greatest... and...I can add without a doubt, *Star Wars* authors are the greatest," writes Phyllis Schulte of the Rebel Legion.



Aaron Allston is *The New York Times* bestselling author of three books from the *Star Wars: Legacy of the Force* series: *Betrayal*, *Exile*, and *Fury*; two *Star Wars: The New Jedi Order: Enemy Lines* novels: *Rebel Dream* and *Rebel Stand*; and novels in the popular *Star Wars X-wing* series. Not only is Allston a bestselling author, he is well-loved by fans for his talent and humor.

When Allston traveled to Oakbrook, Illinois recently for a book signing event, members of the Midwest Garrison of the 501st, the Midwest Base of the Rebel Legion, the R2-D2 Builders, the Chicago Force Book Club, and the Indy Knights from Indianapolis all appeared to welcome him.

Allston was there to launch the new series of books in the Del Rey *Star Wars* line, the *Fate of the Jedi* series, with his first book in that series, *Outcast*.

"Just before the event started," writes Phyllis, "Mr. Allston was gracious and took many group photos for us and all of the fans that gathered at the store. Later, rather than do a reading from the book, he told some great stories of his life in the *Star Wars* galaxy. It is obvious that Mr. Allston possesses great humor and passion for his characters. He added that this series of books will be on the lighter side, but filled with the adventures that we have all come to know and love."



STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS "LAIR OF GRIEVOUS"

[SEASON 1.10]

ORIGINAL AIR DATE:
DECEMBER 12, 2008



2008 EPISODE SCRIPT

INT. GRIEVOUS' LAIR — SECRET
CONTROL ROOM. CONTINUOUS.

Grievous chortles from beneath his mask as he watches his terrible creature bound into the maze on his screen.

GENERAL GRIEVOUS: Goodbye, Jedi! <chortle into cough>

Ay-Four-Dee approaches, carrying a TRAY OF SPARE GRIEVOUS PARTS, including a new mask, replacement arm, etc...

AY-FOUR-DEE: Master, the armor patches are getting cold and contrary to your belief, I do have other things to do.

GENERAL GRIEVOUS: Proceed with my repair.

Ay-Four-Dee activates a CONTROL on the head of Grievous' chair. Hydraulics hiss and the chair pivots down horizontally like a surgical table (or a dentist's chair).

AY-FOUR-DEE: Sometimes I wonder why you submitted to the changes.

WHY IT'S A CLASSIC

Much like the "unmasking" (from behind) of Darth Vader in *The Empire Strikes Back*, this sequence makes us use our imagination to fill in the blanks as to what horror lies beneath the villain's mask.

The scene also serves to redress the incorrect notion that Grievous is some sort of tragic villain—a cyborg against his will—as indicated by some sources. The macabre tone is punctuated by the humorous, nursemaid-like comments of Ay-Four-Dee.

Crucially, this scene brings Grievous in line with George Lucas' concept for the character as a creature who, unlike Vader, willingly agreed to cybernetic enhancements!

Added horror is provided by the scream of agony as the general's mask is painfully pulled free! Now that's gotta hurt!

LAIR OF GRIEVOUS

WHAT THEY SAID...

DAVE FILONI [ANIMATION DIRECTOR]

"One of the things we wanted to do in *The Clone Wars* was bring a new look, something different to *Star Wars*. George Lucas talked early on about having an anime influence. Well, rather than just have an influence, we flew all the way to Japan and worked with Production I.G., bringing one of their really great artists, Atsushi Takeuchi, right into *The Clone Wars*. I wanted Takeuchi-san to do all kinds of things. One of them was designing General Grievous. He has such an amazing ability to break something down mechanically and show all the insides and outsides and parts and pieces."

ATSUSHI TAKEUCHI [DIRECTOR]

"It's been a dream come true. When I came to the Lucasfilm Animation Studio, I couldn't believe I was actually here. I was a little nervous and also very surprised that Mr. Lucas was so enthusiastic and so passionate. Mr. Lucas tweaked a lot of my drawings. Usually, when you change things on the fly, the story suffers, but all his changes made sense. I was amazed by his skill. He's a director, but he can also see a movie as just a regular viewer."

GENERAL GRIEVOUS: Improvements! I submit to no one. I chose them. Now get on with it.

Ay-Four-Dee activates a control panel.

Like legs of a spider, ROBOTIC SURGICAL ARMS unfold from the bottom of the chair and pivot forward to work on Grievous. Ay-Four-Dee manipulates the panel to perform the surgery.

A ROBOTIC APPENDAGE grabs and tugs the CABLE DARTS out of Grievous' legs. His damaged arm is grabbed by a ROBOTIC CLAW, pulled off and replaced with a brand new arm.

A small pair of claws grab Grievous' damaged mask.

AY-FOUR-DEE: There may be some discomfort.

The claws pull the mask off with a crunch.

GENERAL GRIEVOUS: <extended groan of pain>

Before the scarred remains of the General's real face are revealed, we fade out...

END OF ACT II ♡

WHO IS?

Atsushi Takeuchi

A renowned mechanical designer and anime director, Atsushi Takeuchi has worked on such high profile projects as *The Sky Crawlers* and *Ghost in the Shell*. Early in the development of *The Clone Wars* series, he took on some key character, ship, and mechanical designs.



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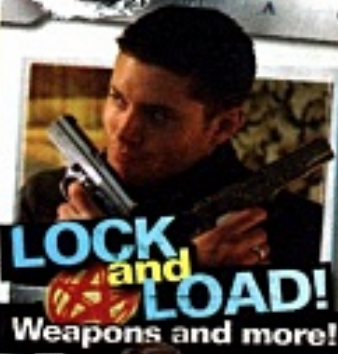
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Used on production materials and crew T-shirts during the 1976 production of *A New Hope*, Ralph McQuarrie's triangular logo has become an instantly-recognizable icon among fans in-the-know, symbolizing the formative era of the *Star Wars* Saga. Simple yet elegant, the design has been successfully translated for the new era of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*!

Composed of elements from McQuarrie's original illustration and new artwork of Anakin from Lucasfilm Animation, the triangle icon has been silk-screened onto the same yellow-tone style T-shirt that the original 1976 crew T-shirts were printed on. This is a great tee for all fans!

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